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THE

PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSIC;

OR, THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

DISEASES,

AND THEIR CURE.

BEING

AN ATTEMPT TO DELIVER THE ART OF HEALING

FROM THE

DARKNESS OF BARBARISM AND SUPERSTITION,

And from the

JARGON AND PEDANTRY OF THE SCHOOLS.

SHEWING

A more easy and certain way of preserving and recovering HEALTH,

THAN ANY HITHERTO KNOWN.

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM WILSON.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. For length of days, long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Mens sana in corpore sano.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTHING but an opinion that this work was wanted, could have brought it into the light. If it be not profitable to mankind, it cannot be profitable to the author; and, whatever use may be made of it, he will possess a consciousness of having done his duty.—The author, when a student at College, fell into a bad state of health, by a liver obstruction. He consulted several eminent physicians, and, not finding relief, he applied himself to the regular study of physic, with its several concomitant branches. The love of knowledge, and the desire of health, excited great diligence in those studies, and his profiting was not of an inferior kind. Having devoted himself to the holy ministry, his duty brought him into many sick rooms, where he witnessed a variety of practice.

From the happy effects of the specific, here recommended, upon the author himself, others were

were induced to try it; and, for ten or twelve years past, an extensive use has been made of it, and with a success not easily believed by such as are unacquainted with it.

As the best treatment of diseases in the regular practice, with all the new discoveries and improvements, are pointed out in this work: such as may dislike specific medicines, or be prejudiced against the one here recommended, will find, nevertheless, they have not lost their labour in perusing this tract.

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INTRODUCTORY

INTRODUCTORY

PREFACE.

IF the publication of this work should require an apology, none is likely to be sufficient. If the practice of physic, with respect to its effects upon health has attained to perfection, every attempt to improve it may justly be deemed superfluous. If there be any persons of this opinion, which may probably be the case, they are not likely to be satisfied with any thing which could be said in favour of this work. To such it will, no doubt, appear an innovation, and they will dislike it as tending to interrupt their ease and disturb their repose.

But if it be true that the practice of physic, so far from having arrived at per-

fection be still in its infancy, then every well intended attempt to improve it should be received at least with candour, if not with favour. That this is the case can scarcely be doubted, when it is considered that the progress of those diseases called curable, is too seldom stopped by the regular practice, or their dreadful ravages prevented, so that numbers fall victims to them both in the flower of youth and vigour of manhood.

Many diseases are called incurable, because no efficacious or certain remedy is known for them. It would be hapy if this was declared as fully and unequivocally, as it is known to be the fact, and as its importance deserves. A routine of practice is gone through, which is always unsuccessful, and known before it is tried, to be useless. Many apologies are made for this kind of practice, such as pleasing the friends, by enabling them to say that every thing was done that was possible, and by alleging that no better remedy was known. But these apologies are by no means sufficient. Writing a prescription implies a belief in

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him who writes it, that the medicine ordered will heal the patient, or prevent the danger which threatens him. If there be no belief of this kind, or if there be belief, and that not founded upon sufficient evidence, it must be a deception, or in other words must be quackery, if the word has any meaning. But deceiving the unfortunate patient with respect to the medicine ordered is not the only evil arising from this practice. It prevents the trial of something new, which, if not the true remedy itself, might lead to a discovery of the true remedy; and thereby improve the art itself. And if it be blameable where no remedy is known, it must be so in the highest degree, when it prevents the application of a medicine safe and effectual, and fully adequate to the cure. Though this practice should not totally prevent the application of the true remedy, yet by occasioning delay it does infinite mischief. The ulcer continues to spread, and extend itself, the hectic fever wastes the body, and the strength declines, so that a cure which could have been easily effected at the beginning,

becomes difficult, and more or less uncertain in the last dregs of life.

Thus an ulcer frequently eats through the intestinal canal, or guts, so that their contents fall into the cavity of the body. Sometimes from the neck it eats into the wind-pipe, or into the esophagus or passage from the mouth to the stomach. The ulcer in this situation is evidently incurable. But it was not so at the beginning; it became so by delay, and the blame falls upon whatever caused this delay. The inflammation and obstruction of the liver and mesentery, which constitute the disease called the scrophula or evil, can now be cured at the beginning with ease and certainty. But if much time be squandered in unavailing or torturing practice, till the mesenterie glands are eat through, or much filled with matter, or the liver extensively affected with abscesses, as nothing but a miracle can save the patient, the most compleat remedy must fail.

Patients, almost without exception, at the first onset of disease have recourse to what is called regular practice. Unfortunately this

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is continued too generally till the signs of approaching dissolution are visible. It is only when life is despaired of, that the patient ventures to try a new medicine, which is contemptuously called a quack medicine. Such new medicine must begin its career, with every possible disadvantage.- Prejudice and ignorance, as well as learning and fashion, are against it. If it gets into use at all, and more especially if it continues in use, it must possess virtues, nay great and uncommon virtues, because it must often succeed where every thing else has failed. If it prevents and cures those destructive and tormenting diseases which are called incurable, and for which scarce a palliative was before known, its value must be great, even inestimable. If it frequently succeeds in the advanced stages of those diseases it will succeed more easily and pleasantly in the earlier periods of them. All its effects will be most severely criticised, and it is much more likely to be treated with injustice than partiality. It pleads only to be tried, to have the trial made, before the parts immediately necessary to life are destroyed. How hard

to

to refuse it a claim so very reasonable? If it be capable of making good its claims by preventing and curing the scrophula, and consumption, how hard to deprive mankind of its benefits!

Surely the continuance of such diseases so painful, so dangerous, so degrading of the species should be prevented, whatever loss of emolument may be the consequence. Yet what is wasting precious time in using unavailing medicines, but continuing those dreadful evils and sacrificing miserable and helpless victims? To men of liberal education, and genteel profession, to alleviate the misery of those diseases, and much more to prevent and cure them, must be matter of joy. Such men must ever have an interest in the ease and happiness of their fellow creatures, and will not withhold their countenance and support from a medicine capable of answering such valuable purposes.

But some may think that admitting the art of physic to be imperfect, such people as have devoted

devoted themselves to the study and practice of it are most likely to supply its defects. An observation to this purpose frequently occurs in conversation. It is however, the reflection of such as are unacquainted with the history of physic. Every one acquainted with this history will admit that no regular practitioner of physic has ever discovered any medicine of considerable value. They have been too much engaged in paying visits, which, whether they promote the health of the patient or not, are considerably useful to themselves. They find it more safe and easy to shelter themselves under the authority of the college, than expose themselves to all the obloquy and misrepresentation which envy and selfishness might pour forth against them, in case they attempted any thing new, even though a valuable improvement. Considering them as men, and reflecting that even good men do not always possess that kind of spirit which would incline them to sacrifice personal ease and emolument to the improvmennt of their art, we might be disposed to excuse them for not introducing any new remedy. But when a medicine has been already

ready discovered and it's importance established by certain experience, passing it over in silence, and not only so, but treating it with contempt or hostile opposition, does not so easily admit of an apology. That this has been and still is the case can hardly be doubted. And if professional men will neglect improvements already made in their art, and will attend only to their own ease or advantage, it is incumbent on the sensible and rational part of mankind to attend to interests and concerns, so very important as their own health, and the health of their friends and neighbours.

The great Author of our being hath laid open the book of Nature for the instruction of all his rational creatures. Man is an important part of Nature, and of the works of God. And if man is to be studied in his religious, moral and political relations, why not in his relations to health and sickness? Some say the science of physic is dark and uncertain, but this does not arise from the nature of the science itself, but rather from the manner of treating it. The natural history of health and

sickness

sickness seems as intelligible as any other subject of equal importance. If the volumes written upon physic are dark and in many places unintelligible, this is not the fault of the subject. There seems here no more occasion for puzzling definitions, or void distinctions, than for unavailing and useless practice. More modern writers from whom light might have been expected, have too much imitated their predecessors by darkening the subject with hard words, and technical terms, which either have not been well explained, or are of little consequence. Using such terms in what is learnedly called nosology, or the description of diseases cannot make the subject either more clear or more pleasing. It also subjects the noble science of physic to the reproach of consisting only of hard words. Forwarding the great work of healing by such productions, is just as sensible as attempting to remove hunger by a catalogue of the technical terms of cookery. A sensible man would prefer a plain joint with the most simple dressing, to all this unentertaining parade of learned ingenuity.

Writings on natural history are frequently not only intelligible and instructive, but entertaining. The earth as consisting of land and water with the inhabitants of both elements, their formation and the economy of Providence in continuing and preserving them have been treated of in this manner. Man as an inhabitant of the earth and more especially as a religious and moral agent is the subject of many works of this kind. The human body is the habitation of the soul of man, and he is said to be at home in the body, why then are not the diseases incident to the human body treated of in a manner as intelligible as they are interesting? As every man best knows his own house, and the best way of reducing it to order, if at any time disturbed, why should he not fully comprehend the best method of combating the diseases with which he is afflicted, and restoring his body to the enjoyment of health? Here every thing ought to be intelligible, plain, and instructive, not only to the learned but also to the unlearned, as they are alike liable to disease, and have the same aversion to pain and dissolution. But so far from this, obscurity seems

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to be studied, and an affectation of learning creates more difficulties than the subject.

To be convinced of this, only read the definitions, distinctions, and divisions, made use of not only by ancient, but even modern authors in their descriptions of diseases, whilst in the method of cure laid down by themselves, these appear to be either altogether useless, or nearly so. What hard names are given to those diseases that are very common, and well known to the people. Thus we read of Pyrexia of Dispnœa, Dispepsia, Hemoragia, Menoragia, Hemeptoe Cardialgia, and a vast number more not less difficult to be explained and understood. In the business of curing, or what is learnedly called the indication, hard and uncommon expressions are not less frequent. Such as septics, and antiseptics, narcotics, diuretics, deobstruents, diaphoretics, Lithontriptics, and a vast, &c. These are mentioned only as a specimen. Surely words must be very scarce if such terms are necessary in works intended to explain an interesting subject, and to instruct mankind in what they are

deeply

deeply concerned to know. Can we wonder that people of plain good sense turn with disgust from the study of diseases, and the means of health. They find a hard bitter shell, containing a kernel, so poor and insipid, as but indifferently to reward their labour in breaking it. Thus many think, that either physic has no meaning, or that its meaning is so locked up in barbarous, and Gothick language, as not to be fit for the study of men of taste or refinement. Thus it is regarded as that unknown country, into whose sable atmosphere, if the sun of science and truth ever shot his rays, it was in a very oblique direction.

There is an important distinction between things known, and things unknown; between things less or more understood, and things not understood at all. Medical writers in general, have not sufficiently attended to this distinction. For example, people exposed to wet feet, damp beds, sitting or standing in wet clothes, eating flesh meat suppers, and drinking fermented liquors to excess are apt to become sick. Colds, consumptions, and fevers,

are

are frequently the consequence. The fact here is well understood, but the manner in which those effects are produced, is not understood. How these causes operate in stopping perspiration, how the obstructed matter of perspiration operates upon the fluids or solids in producing diseases, is a mystery which no man can explain.

Some bodies so subtile as to elude the senses, conveyed into the body either by the air, or the touch of a diseased body will produce diseases of the most dangerous kind. This is well known to be matter of fact; but how those bodies operate in producing their effects, is not understood. We perceive what is meant, when a theorsit describes the parts of the body and their dependence upon one another, and their different uses and functions. But when he attempts to explain the manner in which exciting causes produce their effects, such as the manner in which the brain is affected by the will, and the operation of the brain upon the nerves, and the nerves upon the glands, muscles, and ducts, all is darkness. Hard and long words are used, which, if not

altogether

altogether unintelligible, are at least not generally understood. But what is the reason that the words become so long and hard to be understood, and that the argument they are intended to explain becomes unintelligible to people of sense? The reason is obvious, the subject is not understood, and perhaps cannot be understood; the writer, though pretending to explain the matter, had no knowledge of it, but, instead of saying so, endeavours to astonish the vulgar, and gain the character of learned by a storm of hard words, far beyond the reach of human understanding. Writers in physic have often reminded me of a dialogue between two young divines, who preached from memory or without book, as it is called. The one asked his friend, whom he considered no way remarkable for great powers of intellect or memory, how he succeeded in preaching? Whether he was ever at a loss in the pulpit, and obliged to stop. His friend admitted that he was sometimes at a loss; but added, that he never stopped. He was asked, how he avoided this.—O, said he, I never stop, but hang by it, till I come in again. So those writers

hang

hang by it with an explosion of hard words; but are long of coming into any thing like sense.

The analogy between the causes and cure of diseases, and other parts of natural history, not only shews that these subjects may be treated of, in a way, both intelligible and pleasing, but also the importance of distinguishing between things known and things unknown. Thus in agriculture, not only the animals which constitute the live stock of a farm, but even the grain which springs from it, are subject to disease. Wheat is liable to blight mildew and smut, and to prevent or cure these is a matter of no slight importance; well attested experiments shewing how these diseases may be prevented or cured, are highly valuable. But when authors in agriculture attempt to explain how the various effects in their art are produced, they become dark and mysterious. When they attempt to explain how the blade, the stalk, and the ear, are contained in one grain. How manures operate, whither by compelling the earth to emit salts or oils for nourishing plants, and how this nourishment is

effected

effected, or fails, and blights ensue, they become deep and mysterious. The practical farmer looks up in amazement, is astonished that his simple art should admit so much learning, and a wisdom so profound, if he could but penetrate it, and in this all its importance consists. The farmer discovers nothing in it capable of making his soil more fertile, his tillage less laborious, or more expeditious, or his corn more abundant, or more healthy. He tells a tale more simple, and less productive of wonder, but a great deal more useful. He says, that when he applies a manure of a particular kind, tills his ground to a certain depth, and fineness, and sows it at a certain season with seed previously prepared in a particular way, he has always had an abundant crop of wholesome grain. But that when he used a different manure, or no manure at all, or a different tillage, or sowed at a different season, he has had an inferior crop. That his various works and operations have been effected more easily and cheaply with machines of a particular construction than by others. He that makes an important discovery in this way may enrich

rich a kingdom, and bless the poor with plenty. But the authors of theories, and unintelligible explanations only exalt vanity, establish ignorance on the basis of pride, reaping no other advantage than the applause of fools.

Some late writers have taken much laudable pains to render physic more intelligible, and consequently more useful to mankind in general, than it had been in former times. They may be thought by some to let in sufficient light into its dark recesses, and to supply all the advice that was wanted. That on account of the masterly execution of these works, nothing farther was necessary upon the subject. No doubt some books meant for general instruction and advice, discover not only a benevolent intention, but a masterly execution, and are in all respects excellent. No publication can render them useless, and it is hoped the present one will carry their benevolent design into more full effect. But though this should be admitted, few will deny that something farther was wanting to spread sufficiently the knowledge of the healing art. These writers, though adapting

ing themselves considerably to the understandings of people in general, still retain many of the definitions, and distinctions of the ancient systems. These definitions, and distinctions excite in the people such apprehensions of mistake, that nothing effectual is done at the beginning, and the important season is lost for preventing the disease, or extinguishing it at its first onset. Their prescriptions are almost all directed to those definitions and divisions, and are so far of the nature of the worst practice. They have entirely omitted the morbid appearances of the internal parts of the body, which are certainly known, being subject to ocular demonstration. Without attending to these, the true nature of disease cannot be understood. The most effectual and proper treatment, will not be begun sufficiently early, and when any thing unexpected occurs, such as nervous symptoms; the people not knowing the internal state of the body, are at their wits end, and run into all the absurdities suggested by ignorance and superstition.

Some of those writers lay a stress upon certain modes of practice, they will by no means bear

bear, and consequently turn out disappointment to the unhappy patient. One proposes to cure all diseases by aliment alone, that is by confining the patient to a particular kind and quantity of meats and drinks. Another is for adding to this, cleanliness, country air, and exercise. No doubt these are of considerable use; but if they be recommended to prevent or cure diseases, which they can neither prevent nor cure the prescription is a deception, and it matters little to the patient if he is to be cheated out of his health and life; whither it be by regimen of diet and exercise, or medicine. In all transactions between man and man, truth is necessary and essential, and in none is it more so than in the business of healing. Here all figures and hyperboles are improper, however they may shine as beauties in poetry and romance.

Here the virtues of every thing, and the length it will go in preventing and healing is to be accurately stated, from certain experience. If for example, one labouring under the venereal disease, or siphylis, as it is elegantly

called;

called; was induced by such advice to depend upon diet, air, and exercise alone for his cure to the exclusion of medicine, what would be the consequence? would not his miserable death serve as a melancholy warning among many others of the danger of inaccurate statements in physic. These means of health will just as little succeed in scrophula, cancer, or consumption, and though they be of some use, should not be held up to the sick as the only true remedy. Diet being chiefly, or alone depended upon for curing diseases by the ancient physicians, is no great recommendation, because, they were to the full, as little successful as the moderns. Every expectation which must turn out disappointment, is a deception in him who excites it. How melancholy for poor creatures to be hunted through the same unavailing round of country air, voyages, and journeys, climates, and waters, which always turn out disappointment? No discoveries have been made by these writers superior to what are called the four specifics,* and as they have no confidence in medicine, recommend to such

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* Mercury, opium, bark, and stibium.

at least as are no physicians to confine themselves to diet, air, and exercise alone.

Here there seems a remarkable agreement among all the members of the faculty. Having no confidence in medicine, the patient is ordered to the country, a house or lodging must be hired, the family is divided, expences encreased, business neglected by going and coming, and their affairs often ruined. Foreign climates are recommended as important means of cure, as if there were any climates or countries, where the same diseases did not prevail, and prove fatal. When wells and springs were regarded as inhabited by peculiar deities, and water nymphs, visiting them might be a business of sentiment and pleasure. But to cross the seas, and roam through inhospitable regions merely in quest of hot or cold water is but a dull amusement; and as a business not a little unprofitable. It is time people should stop and reflect. Of all your acquaintances, who have set out in search of the temple of health, how few have returned? Of these few, what a small number can say they have succeeded in the ob-

of their search. They have changed their climate but not their mind; no change for the better has happened to their bodies, the arrows of death stick fast in them, and wasted to the last dregs, dissolve into their first principles.

That plant must be healthy and vigorous that lives in the frozen regions of Syberia, or in the chilling blasts of Lapland, or Nova Zembla. But the most inhospitable regions, and most blighting frosts are not more fatal to a tender plant just venturing into the air, than envy, pride, and jealousy are to a new invented medicine. At the bare mention of it, a host of unfriendly, and hostile passions, are not only alarmed, but mustered in array against it. The malignity of the heart sharpens the tongue and fills the mouth with slander. It is dangerous, says one. It is poisonous, says another. It is a quack medicine, and cannot be good, says ignorance. Such an one took a little of it, and died two or three years after, says falshood. Even silence, by shrugs, nods, and sly looks, endeavours to blast its reputation, and to produce

duce the same effects with a frozen region upon a tender plant. This medicine opposed by so many enemies acting in concert from the strong principles of prejudice, and self-interest, if it be not stifled in its birth, must possess a principle remarkably vigorous and hardy. Every where there are chilling blasts and deadly colds equally dangerous to its verdure, and to its maturity in a prosperous harvest. No medicine can be introduced into considerable use, which is not at least perfectly safe; nay it must also be efficacious, this is its principle of life, on which its existence depends. Only pain and the fear of death can induce any one to make trial of it, and if it does not remove pain and preserve life, it will make no friends. The benefits derived from its use are it's only attractions. The joyful news of health and ease, spreads from those who have happily tried it, and it prevails by it's own excellence and the power of truth.

It is also to be remarked, that a new medicine is seldom tried, till the patient be pronounced incurable, or entertains no hope of relief from

from any other means. If it can stop the ravages of disease at this advanced period, and cherish the expiring spark of life, it must not only be good, but excellent; not only favourable to the vital principle, but favourable to it in a superlative degree. And if it possesses not those virtues, though by the interest of family connexions, it may struggle for life; it will strive in vain, and its birth and death will be nearly joined.

Mankind are naturally procrastinating, and disposed to put off the evil day as far as possible. Hope is generally the last friend that forsakes the unfortunate. People in chronic diseases are seldom aware of their danger. Comparing their state from day to day, they generally say they are better. They will seldom admit that their case is exactly the same, with any one that has proved fatal. Though therefore particular practitioners, and practice has failed in cases pretty similar to their own, they are willing to go through the same round of medicines; country air, exercise, and journeys which have failed with others, without believing

that

that the same fate awaits themselves. But however mankind may be disposed to be dupes, and to waste the precious season for recovering their health, in vain expectation, it does not become men of liberal education, and extensive knowledge to encourage this fatal delusion. If the patient was fairly told at the beginning of his illness that the practice afforded no remedy for his case, room would be left for trying something which might prove a cure. The medical virtues of bodies is not yet known to any considerable extent, and something not yet recognized as a medicine might prove effectual. And if it should not succeed, if it neither encreased his pain nor hastened his fate, he suffered no injury by the trial, as the issue was just as it would have been.

But when a medicine is known which even in scrophula and consumption if properly taken, always succeeds at the beginning, almost always in the second stage, and frequently even in the last, what are we to think, of using every means, even sneers and banter, to

prevent the use of it? Are not assassinations and wars sufficient to cover affectionate families with mourning, and rob society of its best members, must delusive and unavailing practice add to human calamities, and prove the cause of the waste of the species. It is time that mankind should exercise their reason a little, and seriously attend to a subject so interesting. If the means recommended in this treatise be early and properly tried, people of sense will soon perceive what kind of attention is due to interested opposition, and will not be so easily jeered out of their health and life. The shield of Pallas will change such scorners into stone; and the signature QUACKERY will be fixed upon the parcel to which it properly belongs.

But when a medicine, after struggling through great difficulties, has by its success established a high reputation, we might suppose that unfair opposition would cease, and that there would be an harmony of the different orders of men, in making a proper estimate of its merits and allowing credit for its good qualities.

ties. Such as are devoted to the trade and business of health might be likely to be much pleased with any discovery tending to increase the resources of the healing art. No expectation however would be more destitute of reality than this. Men of this description have, in every age, opposed the introduction of every new medicine. When it is vain to think of stopping the spread of the medicine by a cry of danger, the safety and efficacy of it being generally known; the spirit of opposition is as obstinate and determined as ever, but the mode of attack is changed. It is then insinuated that the medicine is well known, and may be had any where. Patients who have made full trial of its comfortable and happy effects can alone judge of its virtues. As to its being known, this is alleged with a bad grace by those who always or almost always fail in those cases in which it constantly succeeds. Charging a man with defects of his art, is trifling in comparison of charging him with defects of his heart. And what are we to think of him who allows his fellow creatures to languish, not to say perish,

under a painful and destructive disorder, though he knew the cure, but applied the contrary.

The virtues of a medicine and its effects in curing diseases, are generally thought discoverable from its colour or taste, or its effects on what are called chemical tests. But a chymical elaboratory is very different from the human body; effects take place in the body, which cannot be imitated in any bottle or crucible. The only test of the virtues of a medicine is changing the morbid state of the body into a healthy state. As to this important test, little can be learned from chymical analysis. Attempting to ascertain the healing power of medicines from chymical process may assist in the business of deception, and in keeping the unfortunate sick from the true means of recovery, may intimidate the fearful, and encrease the opposition of the proud and prejudiced. Stibium and nitre are substances, which produce little effect upon the body taken into it either separately or combined. But if mixed and exposed for some time to a strong fire, they produce a substance

stance so virulent, that it can scarcely be taken into the body in any form with safety. Who could discover this remarkable fact from any chymical process? We must suppose that this substance would be like its parents or the substances from which it is formed; yet nothing is so perfectly unlike them in its operations when taken into the body. Crude mercury taken into the stomach, passes immediately through the bowels unmixed, and without producing any effects. Bread and fat are substances well known, and must be taken in very great quantity, to have any unpleasant effects upon the stomach. But if crude mercury be mixed either with crumb of bread or with animal fat, the mixture is entirely changed from the ingredients of which it is formed, and becomes one of the most powerful, as well as dangerous medicines that can be applied to the body. Who could discover so remarkable an appearance by any chymical operations? It is only from experience and attention to what takes place in the human body, that these effects and virtues can be ascertained. Many more examples of the same

kind

kind might be adduced, but surely every man's reason will tell him the danger of counterfeiting. The more valuable any medicine is, the greater danger from imposing imitations of it upon the sick; every person of sense will take care to have it pure, and from quarters where he cannot be deceived.

Those guardians of the public health, who think it necessary for preventing dangerous innovation, to usurp a monopoly of medical practice, have been at pains to mention as part of medicine, substances which are known to be poisonous. The New Edinburgh Dispensatory has introduced arsenic into a place in the materia medica, which is known from certain lamentable effects to be a deadly poison. Surely countenancing such a thing in any way as likely to do good, does not discover any very anxious concern for the safety of unfortunate patients. The only instance of the effects of arsenic which has come within my knowledge, was that of a family who swallowed some of it in a mistake, having been put into a pudding in place of pepper.

pepper. The quantity was very small, yet all who eat of the pudding, were seized with violent pains in the stomach and lower belly. Assistance was procured, oil and butter were swallowed in quantity, and none of them died. Their health however was most materially injured. Some had tremors, some low spirits, and all of them indigestion and feebleness. If the healthy suffer so much, what can the sick expect from such a thing, except to be put beyond the reach of disease and pain? It may be laid down as an undoubted axiom, that poison never can be a good medicine. Every thing deserving this character of specific or grand medicine must be wholesome. It must be favourable to the vital principle. It must strengthen the stomach, and render the parts necessary to life sound, and by removing the fever, encrease the strength, vigor, and spirits.

It may be said, that mercury and opium are poisons, but by proper management become excellent medicines. These substances, however, are not absolutely deleterious, but become fatal by being improperly used, particularly in too great quantity. Such as may make a proper use

use of the following work, will not deal much in opium. They will be shewn an improved method of applying mercury, the cases in which it is useful, and the way to derive from it the greatest advantage, with the least danger of injury. They will be shewn how to get free from those miseries which are the effects of mercury; such as wandering pains, fixed pains, sponginess, and rottenness in the bones; flushings and general debility; constituting that tendency to consumption and hectic, which is known to proceed from it.

But it is time to dismiss the reader to the work itself, which is offered to him with the best wishes for his health and comfort. The work is the result of considerable study and long experience, in the art of healing, and however it may be thought of by some, such as may make an exact trial of it, will not think the publication either impertinent or useless. Many will esteem it an instance of goodness in the great Author of all being, that I have been spared to finish it, and as I am now advanced in life, it is the best legacy I can bequeath

to

to my brethren of mankind. Being little influenced either by avarice or ambition, the main object in presenting it to the world, is to enable every person of good sense to realize in his own person the most serious advantages. If they are enabled to comprehend the nature of health, and the most effectual method of preserving it when present, or recovering it when lost, the end of publishing is answered. The doctrine of health and disease laid down in the following sheets is certainly new, but it is not the less intelligible, nor the less conducive to the safety and comfort of mankind. If it throws light on those subjects which were dark and abstruse, not only from their own nature, but also from the manner of treating them; and contributes to remove those miseries, impositions and inconveniences, arising from a general ignorance of medicine, little apology need be made for differing from ancient systems and great authorities.

In publishing a work so entirely new, and which in many places must be disagreeable to the feelings of men of great name, an escape

cape from severe animadversion is not to be expected. Criticism implies some degree of candour, but candour is seldom regarded where men's private interests are concerned. Conscious of the purity and rectitude of my own motives, I am equipped equally for the storm as the calm. Pretending to know nothing but from experience in the business of healing, the results of my experience are here presented to the public with simplicity, fidelity, and truth. Such as may make the same trials in similar circumstances will experience the same effects and meet similar results. Prejudice, envy and selfishness, which are commonly active in opposing new discoveries however important, may perhaps succeed in preventing the means here recommended from being tried extensively: yet if true science continues to be cultivated, they must in time command attention, and meet a cheerful reception proportioned to their importance and usefulness.

THE

THE

PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSIC,

&c. &c.

Of FEVERS, *their Nature and Causes explained; how they may be prevented, and the true method of curing them pointed out.*

ALL mankind may be divided into two classes; the healthy, and the sick. The healthy comprehend such as are free from pain, enjoying the usual comforts, and discharging the common duties of human life. The sick are such as more or less labour in distress and sorrow, and are more or less in danger of speedy dissolution. Diseases, under which a great part of mankind at all times labour, and to which all mankind are continually liable, are either acute or chronical. Acute diseases are attended with much sickness, oppression, weakness, and danger of speedy death. Chronical diseases are attended with less sickness, and oppression, but often with great weakness, frequently with much pain, a deprivation of comfort,

and

and such waste and decline of body as terminates, though slowly, yet surely in dissolution.

Medical writers have given the name FEVER generally to all acute diseases. Every one knows that the diseases called fevers are accompanied with great weakness, sickness, and anxiety, and in their progress with a variety of appearances, such as want of sense, twitchings, and convulsions, which are very frightful and alarming, and in a few days, they terminate either in recovery or death. So alarming and shocking are those diseases, that persons labouring under them, have excited compassion in every age of the world, and have been particularly the objects of medical attention. Persons of all descriptions and of all circumstances, when afflicted with fever, endeavour to obtain the aid of medicine. For this reason FEVERS constitute the subject of many volumes in all medical libraries, whether ancient or modern. To understand their causes, and to point out their cure, has been and still is considered a matter of the first interest. And therefore the theories, or hypotheses that have been formed

to

to account for their causes, and different symptoms or appearances, are almost innumerable. As these are the subjects insisted upon in almost all medical publications, or at least in a vast many of them, it seems superfluous to swell this volume with a minute account of them; and more especially as they are not more numerous than unimportant. For which ever of those jarring theories may happen to be in error, or to be right, it avails but little if any thing at all to the curing of the disease. For whether FEVERS proceed, as some have supposed from an abounding sulphur, and spirits in the system,* or from an acrid volatile salt,† or as others say from an acid. Or whether they proceed from the particles of the fluids, varying in their size, weight, shape, degree of cohesion, or from the state of their pores, the angular parts of the fluids or spiculæ tearing the solids. Or whether they arise from irritability, sensibility, spasm, incitement, or collapse. Or whither they proceed from errors in the fermentation of the juices, or the elevation of the solids above the balance of Nature.

Which

* Willis. † Sylvius.

Whichever theory or hypothesis has been formed it has answered little other purpose than to amuse the author, and his admirers. No certain method of cure has been deduced from it. It has brought no relief to the unhappy sufferer, nor contributed to stop the ravages of this devouring malady.

As to the theory of the great Hippocrates so much celebrated, and so implicitly followed, it had its chief excellence in little more than recommending to practitioners to do nothing at all. He asserts that it is nature cures diseases, which is perhaps a well founded assertion. He does not stop here, he takes upon him to account for the manner in which she effects the cure. This he says is by a concoction of the humours by which they are prepared to pass out of the body by some evacuation. This discharge of concocted humours out of the body is the crisis which he so much celebrates. According to him the physician was to watch, the operations of nature in this work of concocting and expelling the humours, but by no means to disturb her. He might use a

regimen

regimen to prevent, if possible, any dangerous accident, which he might foresee likely to happen in this great work of nature; or he might use gentle means to assist nature in concocting and expelling, where her own force seemed insufficient. In his theory little room is left for the physician to act in; little or no assistance was to be given in those violent diseases where the greatest assistance seems to be wanted. This theory is plausible, and therefore it has been much celebrated and much followed. It has the appearance of safety, and consequently has recommended itself to the timid and irresolute, who wish to put the evil day as far off as possbile.

The author of this theory is venerable by his antiquity, but still more by his candour and impartiality. He has given a faithful history of his practice, and thereby enabled us to judge of its merit by its success. The cases of which he has given us the history, were almost all unfortunate. Thus he enables us to estimate the value of the most probable theory. Asclepiades ludicrously called this practice on account

account of its want of success, *a meditation of death.* The author instead of healing his patient witnessed his mortality, without being able to do any thing effectual to prevent it. He has been compared to a spectator of a tragedy, who only beholds the scenes of death, but spoils all if he attempts to interfere.

The diversity of theory respecting the causes of fevers must give rise to a great diversity of treatment, in order to their cure. And as all those theories are uncertain, it is no wonder that the success of the treatment founded on them should be also uncertain. If, for instance, the physician happens in his theory to mistake the cause of the fever he is called to cure, which is very probable, from the great variety of theories, being often even contradictory ; instead of assisting nature he will only thwart her, and hinder her effecting the purposes she intends for the relief of the sick. If applying his theory to the case before him, he thinks he ought to bleed, when he ought to blister, or to purge where he ought to promote sweating, or to vomit when he ought

to

to give tonics, strengtheners and anodynes, or coolers and diluters, where he ought to give cordials and stimulants: it must be evident that something worse is done, than leaving the sick without medical aid. Surely it is greatly to the discredit of theory, and consequently of the regular practice of physic founded upon it, that after so many ages have passed away, so little is known of the true nature and proper treatment of fevers, though practitioners have always paid to them their greatest attention.

Medical writers are at great pains to class fevers under different heads and denominations. They make the distinctions of inflammatory, putrid, continued, intermitting, low, nervous, and miliary, be applied to fever according to the cause that is supposed to excite it, and the effects that cause is supposed to produce in the system. They make a great point of accurately observing those distinctions, from an opinion that fevers coming under those different heads, or denominations, require a different treatment. Thus it is supposed that

while

while an inflammatory fever requires bleeding, purging, sweating, blistering, diluting drink, and cooling food, the putrid fever requires antiseptics,' such as acids, barm, Peruvian bark, wine, contrayerva, snake-root, camphire, musk, and sometimes cold air, or water, or even ice, and sometimes opium, and ardent spirits. It requires no great sagacity to perceive that those different methods of treatment must have a very different effect upon the sick; and that, should his physician mistake to what class his fever belongs, and prescribe accordingly, the consequences must be very serious. Are then the marks that must guide the physician through such dangers of mistake very striking or very certain? No: these marks, or as they are called, symptoms, are neither very clear nor very satisfactory. As for instance, it is said that an inflammatory fever is known by a strong, full, hard pulse; and a putrid fever by a small, feeble, quick pulse. But all good practitioners know that the most violent inflammatory fevers are often attended with a small low, depressed pulse, and particularly when the brain or its membranes are much affected;

ed ; that upon bleeding, purging and sweating, if not promoted by too hot a regimen, the pulse rises, grows more strong and full ; but that pursuing the hot regimen, giving wine, opium, snake-root, contraerva and even bark, the pulse becomes more quick and feeble; a delirium comes on, with starting of the tendons and convulsions, and death soon steps in to relieve the unhappy sufferer from this land of misery and mistake.

Those diseases which are most putrid in their termination, are often violently inflammatory at the beginning. The plague is allowed to be a most putrid disease, and yet the great Sydenham says, that at the beginning, it had the appearance of an inflammatory disease, and that in that stage it was most successfully treated by the cool regimen. The small pox is a very putrid disease, yet at its first onset it has every appearance of great inflammation, and bleeding but more particularly purging at the beginning, or during the first fever, is the surest way to obtain a favourable issue, and nothing can be more

dangerous

dangerous than cordials and antiseptics at this stage. Seeing then there is so great uncertainty in theory, and that so little is known of the causes of fevers, and that consequently the practitioner must labour under uncertainty respecting the best method of treating them. It is most important to know a medicine, that is perfectly safe in all kinds of fevers, and in all stages of them, and that will produce a favourable termination, if given early in the disease, frequently in a few hours, and almost always in a few days: and that will scarcely fail in any one instance, if begun in any reasonable time, and be properly given. This medicine is the ANTIARTHRITIC POWDER. It has been tried in a very great variety of fevers, and in the most unfavourable circumstances, and with a degree of success unequalled by any other medicine. The first patients on whom it was tried were labourers, and particularly hay-makers, who were often wetted, and obliged to stand and sit in wet clothes in a very rainy season, they were in great numbers seized with a very dangerous fever. Their bed was a scanty wad of straw or hay,

hay, on a damp earthen floor; they were destitute of all those comforts which are known to be useful to the sick in fevers; and yet in about forty who took it in the same autumn, in the above unfavourable circumstances, not one died. A servant who was much among the sick, assisting in giving the powder, caught the fever, but recovered by the same means. Many people in the city were about the same time seized with this fever, and though they enjoyed good beds, airy apartments, with every comfort, and what is generally called, the best medical assistance, numbers were carried off. The first attack of this fever was with shivering, hot and cold fits, head ache, pain in the back, with sickness and oppression, and total loss of appetite, though sometimes the thirst was not very considerable. They complained of a very bad taste in the mouth. A dose of the powder was immediately given in a little of the sick man's drink, and repeated every second or third hour, the bowels at the same time were opened with common clyster or some opening physic, the opening pill is preferable to all other things. Sometimes the

powder

powder sufficiently opened the belly, sometimes it nauseated the stomach, and almost always produced an encreased discharge both of sweat and urine. When this treatment was begun at the first attack, a good night's sleep took place, which carried off the complaints, and the fever was gone in the morning. It was however prudent to go on with the same course for some time to prevent a relapse. When the fever had unfortunately gone on for some time before the powder, &c. were given, the cure required longer time, but still if persisted in, the issue was happy. And even in the most threatening circumstances, it generally succeeded. Bleeding moderately at the beginning had often a good effect; especially if the patient was young, but if not done in the first three days it is better omitted. Salined raughts, composed of solution of sal. soda and lemon juice, or if fresh fruit cannot be got, buttermilk-whey will answer pretty well, these throughout the fever, are very grateful and refreshing, and in the advanced stages, wine whey, and even wine ought to be given.

Practitioners

Practitioners may perhaps think, that though this treatment might answer in inflammatory fevers, it would not be so proper in those fevers they denominate putrid, and nervous. Here bleeding is universally reprobated, and the cure chiefly committed to opium, bark, snake-root, contraerva, and musk. In the sequel it will be made evident, why bleeding at the beginning may not be so improper, in putrid and nervous fevers as is commonly supposed, at present a few general remarks will only be made. It is said, that after bleeding in putrid and nervous fevers, the pulse sinks, a delirium comes on with startings of the tendons, which terminates in death. But it ought to be remembered that this is often the case whether there be bleeding or not. Dissections of those that have died of putrid and nervous fevers have discovered appearances which would seem to indicate the great necessity of bleeding at the first onset of these fevers. The brain has been found inflamed, sometimes filled with matter or with watery substance, the stomach, and some of the bowels have been found inflamed, and

mortified.

mortified. Now it is known that bleeding, if it does not disperse the tumour, forwards the production of matter, or pus in a common boil or ulcer, and it is probably from hastening the formation of matter in the brain, that the pulse sinks, and spasms take place, but had it been used at the very onset of the fever, the obstruction and inflammation would have been prevented, or at least dispersed without producing matter. And this is perhaps the reason why bleeding is thought so improper in the advanced stages of those fevers.

The inspection of the brain in such as have died of those fevers will soon convince every man capable of thought or reflection, of the great impropriety of the present treatment. The brain is enflamed and obstructed, and some of its substance changed into matter, and its cavities filled with water or serum. Now what are the remedies ordered for those fevers in which the brain is well known to be affected as described above? Are they not opium, cordial juleps containing opium, bark, snake-root, contrayerva, musk, wine, with blister ad libitum.

But

But surely these things possess no virtues capable of opening these obstructions, subduing those inflammations, or of preventing the production of matter or serum. They would seem much more likely to have an effect directly contrary to that expected from them, namely, to encrease the inflammation, and to render the obstructions more obstinate. And therefore we need not be surprized at the very little success arising from the administration of them. Those fevers seem evidently to require the cooling regimen, at least at the beginning, as much as inflammatory fevers. But the first hours are greatly important in them; at the first onset the obstruction and inflammation should, if possible, be removed, by which the danger would be wholly prevented. And surely bleeding, purging, and gentle perspiration would be much more likely to produce this effect than narcotics, tonics and strengtheners, though upon these the regular practice lays the principal dependence. Nay cuppings and scarifications about the neck, and as near the brain as possible as well as blisters, and bleeding, should be tried as soon

as possible in these fevers; and if to this plan the Antiarthritick Powder be added, the termination of the fever will be speedy and happy. Putrid and nervous fevers would be but seldom seen, and would be known only in the books that describe them. Sydenham observes that those who pursue the cooling regimen will be distinguished by their success, though reprobated by theorists and such as build their fame upon nice distinctions and definitions. Instead of admiring this useless ingenuity the wise will pursue that practice which every day's experience demonstrates more and more to be of the first importance.

The pains taken by medical writers to arrange fevers under distinct heads, and the cautions laid down for guarding against mistaking one species for another, is much admired by some: yet for improving the art of healing, these distinctions seem perfectly unimportant. Nay, so far from being of use they seem to be dangerous. They must greatly perplex the practitioner, and hinder him from affording in proper time that assistance which

which nature requires. He is generally undetermined for some days, till he sees what class of fevers the present one comes under, and when he thinks he understands this great point, the season for removing the fever is past, and the dreadful circumstances of fever are present: for removing which all the means he knows can avail him little. If the means of cure mentioned above were immediately resorted to, the fever would be removed much sooner than the physician can determine the class or denomination it is to be arranged under. The custom of prescribing to symptoms or even to names is much promoted by those idle distinctions, they have the appearance of great accuracy and of great medical knowledge, but in that consists all their importance.

Though it be certain that all fevers at the beginning are so much alike that they can all be cured by one medicine, or by the course mentioned before, yet it is to be remarked that there are two stages of fevers. The first stage is when the blood and juices are so far depraved as to have a direct tendency, or if

you please, power to produce an obstruction or inflammation, or in other words, a sore. The second stage is when the sore is actually formed or produced. Though the blood is most necessary to the growth, strength, and health of the body, yet it is often so far changed from its kind and salutary quality, as to produce obstructions and inflammations in different parts of the body. All the elaborate theories of physic produced in different ages of the world, were designed to account for this morbid state of the blood and juices, by which they are enabled to produce a sore. Excess in eating and drinking, want of sleep, great fatigue, and exposure of the body to damp, cold air, or damp covering, especially immediately after hard labour, are known to produce this state of the blood and juices. Infections, such as plague, small-pox, and putrid fever, have also the same effects. But how, or by what particular operation they produce those effects is altogether unknown. And surely, that ignorance should prevail here is no matter of wonder. Who can say he has discovered the first or general principles

upon

upon which nature proceeds in her various operations. In every part of her economy there are mysteries impenetrable to the most acute understanding. This is the case in the vegetable as well as in the animal creation, and it is particularly the case with what relates both to the morbid, and healthy state of the human body. Who can pretend to explain how our food is changed into chyle, how chyle is changed into blood, and how the various juices are separated from the blood, which are necessary to the various purposes of nature. If those things be unknown, why should it be thought strange, that the operation of those things which change the blood and juices from a healthful to a morbid state should be unknown? And this may suffice to shew that theory is unavailing to discover either the cause or cure of diseases.

When the juices have arrived at that state which is necessary to produce obstruction, inflammation, or sore, if they be not immediately changed, an inflammation, or sore, in some part of the body will speedily take place.

And

And from the particular place or part of the body where the inflammation or sore are formed, the disease takes its name. For example, if the pleura or lining of the upper part of the body be the part where the inflammation or sore are formed, the disease constituted by this sore, is called the pleurisy. If the lungs be the place of inflammation, the disease is called a peripneumony. If the liver be the seat of the inflammation, or sore, the fever is called bilious, sometimes intermittent, or ague. When the inflammation or sore take place in the brain, the fever is called nervous, or putrid and malignant. Less or more fever is always excited when any inflammation or sore exists in any part of the body, and the danger of the fever is to be estimated from the part where the inflammation or sore are formed and situated.

Fevers are divided into two classes, the one may be called the first, or simple fever; the other, the absorvent fever. The first arises from some morbid cause corrupting the blood, and juices; so that instead of nourishing and strengthening the body, they labour to produce an inflammation or sore. The second is

kept

kept up by the inflammation and sore already formed, and by the matter absorbed from them. No matter can be produced without fever. And when matter is formed and taken up, or absorbed into the blood and juices, the fever is continued, and increased. When the pleura, and lungs are the seat of the inflammation, the matter can be expectorated or spit up, and therefore those fevers though dangerous, are frequently cured. When the liver is the part affected, the matter when ripened, finds a passage by the bile ducts, and is discharged either through the stomach or by the lower bowels. But when the brain is the seat of inflammation and sore, the matter and pus can find no passage out. It must be absorbed by the absorbent vessels, which being able to take up but a small part of it, the remainder continues to oppress and injure the brain. And from both these causes all those dreadful ills arise, which take place in the advanced stages of nervous, and putrid fevers, such as delirium, convulsions, twitchings, startings, tremor, coma, and death. The livid spots taken notice of in those fevers, are probably occasioned by the

absorbed

absorbed matter still farther corrupting the blood, and preparing it to produce new sores, now become malignant or cancerous.

The great author of nature preserves the closest analogy, and most perfect consistency through all the variety of his works. Their sublimity strikes with astonishment every attentive beholder. But their extent and magnitude are not more admirable than their simplicity, not only in their appearance and form, but also in those laws, by which they are upheld, and directed to their proper ends. How simple is the principal or law of gravitation, or that tendency which heavy bodies have towards a centre? Yet how grand are the effects of this principle throughout the vast creation of God? The sun maintains his place, the earth and other orbs of the system are kept in their stations, and perform their revolutions through immense spaces without let, obstruction, or disorder. How simple is heat, and yet how vast is its influence through the vegetable and even animal creation? This principle seems to quicken all nature; its invigorating

vigorating influence produces not only perfumes, and aromatics, but also weeds offensive to the senses. The deadly night-shade, the poisonous hemlock, as well as wholesome grain and roots, owe to it their production. So with respect to diseases, a principle so subtle and consequently simple, as not to be perceived by our senses, operates with such power upon the blood and juices, that instead of nourishing and strengthening the body, they produce an obstruction, inflammation or sore; and this inflammation or sore, if allowed to go on, produces matter different according to its situation in the body, and that matter absorbed again into the blood, produces all the dreadful symptoms of fever, and soon pulls down the curious mansion of the outward man.

What an admirable simplicity is perceivable in the plans of the Almighty for the preventing and curing of diseases? What can be more simple than pure spring-water, yet how extensive its influence in preserving and restoring health? For one dreadful disease it is

a sovereign

a sovereign specific, viz. THIRST. This is at first a strong desire for water, or something containing water; if this be immediately administered, the disease and uneasy sensation are removed; but if not, the uneasiness rises to great pain, the patient becomes feverish and nervous, he is seized with alternate fits of laughing and crying, he has faintings, startings, and delirium, at last he becomes sleepy, or comatose, till death puts a period to his miseries. How simple an article is meal or flour made of grain, and yet how extensive and happy its effects on the health of mankind? How dreadful is hunger, and if considered as a disease, how fatal! A man labouring under this malady feels at first a strong desire for food; to this succeeds violent pain and sickness of stomach, to this succeeds fever, delirium, startings, and twitchings of the tendons, coma and death. A physician, called to see this patient, and not knowing the cause of his disease, would proceed according to the ordinary rules of practice; he would order a vomit and a purge, to relieve the stomach from its complaints; perceiving the patient soon to become

become nervous, he would order opium, bark, snake-root, and contraerva. A delirium and stupor coming on, he would order blisters in abundance. If his pulse was low with a starting of the tendons, then wine and musk are added, and perhaps if his disorder was supposed to be putrid, then barm would be given, or cold air, or cold water, and perhaps ice, would be applied. This treatment would certainly fail, and yet it is agreeable to the best rules of practice, in such fevers as have nearly the same symptoms with the advanced stages of hunger. This treatment fails, and why? certainly because the proper remedy was not applied. That remedy is meal or flour, or bread prepared from it. When this remedy is timeously applied, the desire for food is the only part of the disease that is felt, but is speedily cured. All the other dreadful symptoms arising from hunger are compleatly prevented. But suppose the nervous and putrid symptoms of the disease of hunger had come on before the application of this remedy, there is little doubt but that the proper application of it even then, though

though not so certain as a first, would be much more happy and efficacious than the most pompous prescriptions without it.

In like manner when from some cause as simple perhaps, though not so obvious as that of thirst and hunger, a fever is brought on; the patient complains of shivering, alternate hot and cold fits, head-achs, pain in the back, or perhaps stitches in the breast and side, with difficult breathing. If he be full of blood, he is ordered to be bled, a vomit is ordered, perhaps a purge, some nitre is given to promote a sweat, but if the patient be restless an opiate is ordered to quiet him, and to promote a sweat; if the head becomes worse, and the pulse sinks and is feeble, a blister is applied. If the pulse keeps low and creeping, with twitchings of the tendons and delirium, the opium is repeated, the blisters are repeated. If convulsions come on with startings of the tendons, and particularly if spots appear indicating putrefaction, the bark, wine, contraerva, snake-root, musk, with synapisms to the feet are superadded; and

and perhaps as a last shift barm is given, or cold water and ice. These are the remedies recommended in fevers by such as are esteemed the best medical writers. The test of practice is its success, and if this practice be not attended with the desired success, it is a proof that it applies not the proper remedy. For as water is a certain remedy for thirst, and meal or flour for hunger, it is presumable that there is among the works of God a remedy for fevers not less certain, though perhaps not altogether so obvious, or so easily discovered. It is by experience the effects of water and bread are ascertained. And it is experience alone that can establish the character of the true remedy for fevers. To this criterion the Antiarthritic Powder appeals. If taken as before directed, at the very first beginning or onset of fever, it will, like bread and water, not only cure the disease then existing in the disposition of the juices to produce an obstruction or sore, but it will effectually prevent the dreadful consequences, and all the alarming symptoms, and fatal effects of the obstruction and sore becoming formed

or established, which will be more or less, according as the parts are necessary to the vital functions, and according to the ease or difficulty of discharging the matter formed in them. If, however, unfortunately it should not be given till the advanced stages of fever, and the alarming and fatal symptoms have come on, it will be found the best remedy, though not so certain as if begun early, and its success will be more or less certain according to the situation of the sore. In the advanced stages of fever, the patient must be supported with wine whey and sometimes wine added to his gruel and paneda. This will agree perfectly with the powder, and prove conducive to the cure, and good wine is by far the best cordial, and should be the only one used. Opiates, if given early in fevers, have always a bad effect, and increase the difficulty of cure, and at no time throughout the fever does any real advantage seem to arise from the administration of them. The only advantage they produce is to advance the fame of the physician. The nurse-tender never failing to tell the gossiping visitors that the doctor's prescription agreed well with the patient, he was quiet, and slept

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in the night, and this serves for a topic of panegyric in the whole round of the day's visits. It is never considered that this quiet and slumber are only preludes of that sound and quiet sleep, from which he can be roused only by the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God.

The account here given of fevers is new, and very different from that generally given of them, the method of cure is also new, but a short trial will demonstrate its superiority to what has been long in vogue. The phenomena or appearances upon which this account is founded are not the less real for having been only lately pereeived. The law of gravitation had as real an existence and as extensive an influence before the time of the great Newton as since, though no person happened to perceive it. The circulation of the blood was as really the plan of nature, and its effects as extensive and powerful before it was discovered by Harvey as after. So those appearances in fever have always been the same, and would have continued the same, though no person had ever cast upon them the least notice. Those appearances or phe-

nomena

nomena have however been noticed by some very distinguished men. But having been seen through the mist of system, theory and established rules of practice, the discovery rather excited wonder than assisted in improving the means of cure. The late learned and illustrious Dr. Pringle, physician to the army, in his dissections of those that died of the camp fever of the marshes, perceived to his great surprize, that the brain was obstructed, ulcerated, and in some cases containing matter. His dissections powerfully support the views here given of fever, though they seem to have had no influence upon his opinions respecting the treatment of them.

"When," says he, "the distemper comes on slowly, the first complaints are small interchanges of heat and cold, a trembling of the hands, sometimes a sense of numbness in the arms, weakness of the limbs, loss of appetite, and the disorder being greatest at night; the body is hot, the sleep interrupted, and not refreshing, there is some pain and confusion in the head, but never violent. The pulse is at first little quicker than natural, the tongue is white,

white, but the drought is inconsiderable: those who are thus affected, find themselves too much indisposed to go about business, but too well to be altogether confined. In this state, sometimes a change of air will remove the disorder, sometimes a sweat. I have had experience of both methods of preservation in my own case. What may seem particular, I have more than once known a large bleeding while the person was going about with these symptoms, instead of relieving the head, immediately sink the pulse, and bring on a delirium."

"Except by this last mark, and the tremor of the hands, the disease is not easily to be distinguished in the beginning, from any common fever. In inflammatory fevers, bleeding constantly moderates all the symptoms, but in this it seldom gives ease. When the fever advances fast, the symptoms already mentioned, are all in a higher degree; and to these are added, great lassitude, a nausea, pains in the back, a more constant pain and confusion in the head, a dejection of spirits, and an uncommon tremor of the hands. At this time, the pulse is never sunk, but beats quick, and often varies in the

same

same day as to strength and fulness; the first bleeding, if moderate, affects the pulse little; but if the evacuation is large, and especially if repeated to answer a false indication of inflammation, the pulse encreasing in frequency, is apt to sink in force, and often irrecoverably, whilst the patient becomes delirious. But withal, we must observe, that in every case, independent of evacuations, the pulse sooner or later, sinks and gives then certain indication of the malignity of the disease."

"The blood has been found so various, that it is impossible to predict what will be its appearance, for though commonly it is little altered, it has been sizy, not only upon the first attack, but after the fever was well formed."

"If the sick lie warm, and have no preceding flux, the body is generally costive, but when they lie cold, a diarrhœa is a common symptom, but is not then critical. In the worst cases, a flux appears in the last stage, when the stools are involuntary, colliquative, ichorous, or bloody, and of a cadaverous smell, the

the effects of a mortification of the bowels, and the sign of approaching death.

" The skin is generally dry and parched, though sometimes there are shorter or longer sweats especially at the beginning. Those produced by medicine, are of no use but on the first attack, at which time, they will often remove the fever, but such as are natural are never critical, till the distemper begins to decline. These are rarely profuse, as in other fevers, but gently continued and diffused equally over the body; and sometimes the disease will terminate by an almost imperceptible moisture of the skin, the sweats are usually fetid, and sometimes even offensive to the patient himself."

" Some are never delirious, but all are under a great stupor or confusion. Few retain their senses till death, many lose them early, and from two causes, either from immoderate bleeding, or premature use of warm and spirituous medicines. They rarely sleep, and unless delirious, have more of a dejected than a feverish look; the eyes are always muddy, and generally

rally the white is of a reddish cast, as if inflamed. The confusion of the head often rises to a delirium, especially at night, but unless with an unseasonable hot regimen seldom turns to rage, or to those high flights of imagination frequent in other fevers. When the delirium is at its height, the face is flushed, the eyes very red, the voice becomes quick, and the patient struggles to get up."

"It is more common to have a tremor than a subsultus tendinum, or if that symptom occurs, it is in a lesser degree than in many other fevers. All along as the pulse sinks, the delirium and tremor encrease, and in proportion to its rising, the head and spirits are relieved; frequently from the very beginning the patient grows dull of hearing, and at last almost deaf."

"There are certain spots which are frequent, but not inseparable attendants of the fever. These are the true petechiæ, being sometimes of a brighter or paler red, at other times of a livid colour, but are never raised above the skin. They are small, and commonly distinct, but

but sometimes so confluent, that at a little distance, the skin looks only somewhat redder than ordinary, as if the colour was uniform, but upon a nearer inspection, the interstices are seen. For the most part these spots are so little conspicuous, that unless looked for attentively, they may escape notice. They come thickest out on the breast and back, less on the legs and arms, and I do not remember having seen any upon the face. They sometimes appear as early as the fourth or fifth day, and at other times as late as the fourteenth. They are never critical, nor are they to be reckoned among the mortal signs, but only to concur with other circumstances to ascertain the malignity; the nearer they approach to a purple the more ominous they are. In a few cases instead of spots, I have observed purple streaks and blotches, which perhaps are more to be dreaded. But these spots and vibices will sometimes not come out till after death; and we had a case in the hospital, when upon bleeding, the petechiæ were seen on the arm, below the ligature, and no where else on the body. This fever, though of the continued kind, has

often

often exacerbations at night, with remissions and partial sweats next day; and after a long continuance, is apt to change into a hectic, a remitting or intermitting form. The length of the fever is uncertain, the time as in the plague, depending upon the malignity; for in proportion to its virulence the course is quicker. In the hospital we have had it generally running from fourteen to twenty days; but some have died or recovered after four weeks illness. From the time of the sinking of the pulse till death, or a favourable crisis, there is perhaps less change to be seen from day to day, in this than in any other fever not of the malignant kind. When the course is long, it often terminates in the suppurations of the parotid, or axillary glands; and when those do not appear, it is probable the distemper is kept up by the formation of some internal abscess. Many upon coming out of the fever, complain of a pain in their limbs, and want of rest, and almost all of great weakness, confusion in their head, vertigo and noise in their ears.

This

This very ingenuous author did not only pay the most minute and accurate attention to the unhappy sufferers in this dangerous fever, but with a most laudable zeal he hath pursued his researches by opening and examining the bodies of such as died of it. Every one must feel himself obliged by that generous philanthropy, which led him not only to sacrifice his ease, but endanger his personal safety for the good of mankind. "The "dissections of those that died of the com- "mon hospital fevers," says he, "were in "all ten. In some of the bodies all the ca- "vities were opened: in others either the "brain alone was seen or the bowels. The "most unexpected appearance after death, "were abscesses of the brain, which I shall "therefore more particularly mention. The "first I saw of this kind was at Ghent. I "found about three ounces of purulent mat- "ter in the ventricles of the brain, and ob- "served that the whole cortical and medul- "lary substance was extremely flaccid and "tender. What was more extraordinary, I "discovered some of the same kind of mat-

ter

" ter in the substance of the cerebellum, upon
" the upper part. Yet this person with some
" stupor and deafness had his senses till the
" night before he died, so entire, that he an-
" swered distinctly when spoken to: but about
" that time the muscles of his face began to be
" convulsed. Of two other instances of men,
" who undoubtedly died of this fever, in one
" the brain was suppurated; in the other, the
" cerebellum. In the former case, the pa-
" tient was under a stupor with deafness from
" the beginning, but was never delirious, nor
" altogether insensible. His pulse sunk very
" early; about ten days before he died his
" head began to swell, and continued very
" large till within two days of his death, when
" it subsided a little. For several days before
" he died, he would taste nothing but cold
" water; during his illness he lay on his
" right side. The head being opened, an
" abscess as big as an egg was found in the
" substance of the fore-part of the right he-
" misphere of the brain, full of a thin mat-
" ter like whey. At that time five more, ill of
" the same fever, had the like swelling of
their

" their heads, but recovered. In the other case, " the abscess in the cerebellum was about the " size of a small pigeon's egg, containing also " a thin ichorous matter. Nor had this pa- " tient been so thoroughly insensible, as not " to answer reasonably when spoke to. Two " were opened afterwards, in whom the corti- " cal substance of the brain had an inflamma- " tory appearance but no suppuration; in one " of them the underside of the liver was begin- " ning to mortify, the large guts were already " corrupted, and the smaller much inflamed. " This man went off with a looseness, and " just before his death had a discharge of an " ichorous matter from his nose. One was found " who died after an abscess formed in each of " the orbits. The brain was very flaccid, and " about two ounces of a thin serum in the ven- " tricles." Obser. on the diseases of the army, by John Pringle, M. D. F. R. S. Second Edition, London, page 260.

The appearances or symptoms of this fever are many and various, but it is to be remark-

ed that they all proceeded from an inflammation or sore in some part of the body, most frequently in the brain, but sometimes in the bowels of the abdomen. The existence of an inflammation or sore, when no wound or hurt has been received from an external cause supposes a power or disposition in the juices to produce this inflammation or sore. Now the cure of this fever required one of two things: first, to disarm the juices of their power, or disposition to produce this abscess or sore, or if it was already formed to heal it. To carry the first point is to prevent the fever entirely, to carry the second point is to cure the fever. But how little regard is had to these points in the treatment pursued, and recommended by this celebrated practitioner. He begins with bleeding the patient, he sometimes gives a vomit, and then endeavours to promote sweating, either with the spiritus mindereri, nitre, camphire or opium. These have perhaps some effect to disarm the juices of their acrimony, and power to produce a sore; however their effect this way is but very imperfect. All the other things recommended

have

have no power whatever to remove the obstruction or to heal the inflammation or abscess. They are all intended to stimulate the solids, and to raise and strengthen the pulse, to take off the spasm from the surface, or the nervous system, and to cause rest and sleep. The great object is to abate the violence of the symptoms, to take off the appearances of distress and pain and to procure quiet. All this time the abscess is advancing, though not regarded till the matter being absorbed into the blood renders it corrosive; or by its own pressure upon the brain, it puts a stop to the vital movements. Medical writers are at great pains to caution practitioners of the danger of mistaking a putrid fever for an inflammatory one. Yet these fevers seem to differ in little else than the situation of the inflammation and sore. In the inflammatory fever the lungs, liver, or some of the bowels in the cavity of the body are the seat of the sore, but in the continuance of the fever the brain also is found obstructed, and ulcerated. So that the difference of these fevers is more imaginary than real. The circumstance of the pulse being

low and feeble in the putrid fever is much taken notice of; and is thought to constitute the principal difference. But this probably arises from the obstruction and inflammation of the brain itself. Nature is then attacked in her strong hold, and is able to make but a feeble resistance. But the pulse is sometimes depressed and low in inflammatory fevers, and it is remarked that bleeding and purging raise it, and make it more vigorous, and this is said to be the case in putrid fevers also, provided they be used early in the disease. Whatever may be said of these distinctions and differences, experience forces a conviction upon the best practitioners that they are much the same. The treatment they recommend for both is so very similar, that if the diseases be very different they cannot have much success in both. No better authority can be adduced than that of Sir John Pringle. He recommends in the inflammatory fever, bleeding, vomiting cautiously, purging, sweating by spiritus mindereri, theriaca, nitre, camphire and contraerva root, wine and cordials in case of lowness; and

diascordium

diascordium in case of diarrhœa; with blisters and synapisms to the feet as circumstances may require, with diluting drink, and total abstinence from all animal food, even from chicken and chicken broth.

In the putrid fever, he orders to begin with a small or moderate bleeding, vomits are to be used cautiously, the bowels to be opened with purgatives. Sweat is to be promoted, and the spirit, mindereri recommended for this purpose, blisters are also to be applied, and as soon as it appears, he says, "that the distemper is "confirmed, it will be proper to give such me- "dicines only as were recommended before in "the cure of inflammatory fevers; viz. the "contraerva powders with nitre and cam- "phire, and the common Ptisan acidutated." See page 269.

Now what is the mighty use of all that is said about the distinctions of fevers, seeing the treatment of them is so very much the same? The only difference is in the article of bleeding; the inflammatory patient is to be bled freely,

freely, the putrid patient moderately; this is the whole amount of all those mighty differences. It is manifest, that these fevers are so much the same, that a practitioner not very fond of bleeding, would be guilty of no great mistake, if he treated them both as inflammatory fevers. But the reverse might have been very different. If he treated them both, or even one of them as a putrid fever, the effects would have been very bad, and the consequences probably fatal. Thus the same celebrated writer observes, page 267. "But with regard to antiseptics in general; by which is meant medicines that resist putrid fevers; it may be remarked, that though they are necessary for preventing the high degree of putrefaction, yet after the fever is once formed, we must not expect to shorten it by any medicine of that kind; as such have no power to remove those obstructions, which are found so soon to take place in this disease." Here he admits, that no medicine can be useful in a fever, unless it can remove the obstructions, or heal the sore that constitutes the fever. And whatever possesses this quality, must a fortiori be capable

capable of disarming the blood and juices of their disposition, or power to produce an obstruction, or sore. The Antiarthritic Powder posseses this quality, of preventing the sore, if taken in time, and also of healing it, if unfortunately it should be formed before its application. Its preserving the strength, and encreasing the vis vitæ, as it is called, are also remarkable. This is evident, not only from its effects in fevers, but also in ulcers and sores in the external parts of the body, which it will heal when all other medicines have failed. And though it hath not been tried as to its antiseptic powers in a bottle, yet its virtues in resisting putrefaction in the human juices, are demonstrated by its removing all disagreeable and unsavory smells from the body, and even from scrophulous, and cancerous ulcers. A very short trial will convince any person of this fact to his own great comfort and advantage.

So soon then as a head-ache, hot and cold fits, shiverings, pains in the back or bones, or stitches in the breast or side take place, let one of the powders be immediately taken, and

repeated

repeated every two, or at the most three hours. If it nauseates the stomach, it will be proper to omit a dose, but so soon as the sickness is gone, it ought to be given again as if nothing had happened. One or two of the opening pills ought also to be immediately taken, and the patient should be encouraged to drink plenty of diluting drink, such as barley water, apple tea, bread tea, or tea itself, or buttermilk whey, but no broth or flesh meat of any kind should be allowed. If these directions be followed, the patient will fall into a sound sleep, with a gentle perspiration, and will awake without fever in the morning. Though this should be the case, let the powder be continued one dose every two or three hours; with a pill occasionally, for a week or fortnight, which will prevent a relapse, and perfect the cure.

But if it should happen that the feverish symptoms are still felt in the morning. If the patient be young, and full of blood, it will be proper to take from him ten or twelve ounces of blood, the powder is to be continued as before, and the bowels are to be kept open by the

the pill or any other medicine of a purgative quality the patient may like better. The effervescing mixture may be taken every two or three hours, or as it is called, the saline draught.* This in a very short time, will bring on a gentle sweating which will carry off the fever entirely. This plan ought to be immediately applied, no time is to be lost, the neglect of a few hours, may have serious consequences. What are we then to think of a sage practitioner, waiting to see what class of fevers the one before him comes under, and by doing so, gives time for the obstructions to form which establish the fever, and produce most dreadful consequences. If our plan be pursued steadily, there will be no need of blisters, opiates, or of stimulating or heating medicines. All those dreadful effects which appear in fevers will be prevented; all danger of infection will be removed, and the friends of the sick will not be frightened from paying him every necessary attention.

* This is made by dissolving one ounce of sal. soda or any pure pot-ash, or alkaline salt in a quart of boiling water, and adding to two spoonfuls of the solution, one spoonful of lemon or orange juice, or buttermilk whey, salt of wormwood will answer.

It is presumable that, had the great Doctor Pringle, who laboured so much to improve the art of healing, and extend its resources, known the happy effects of this powder, and the unparalleled success of the plain course above recommended, he would have rejoiced, and, congratulating mankind on the occasion; would have taken pains to extend its use and benefits. How many heroes would then have been preserved to fight the battles of their king and country? What additional strength would the army have received from an increase of health, and diminution of hospital duty, and a total stop to the dreadful spread of infection? But, if professional men will be inattentive to these things, and treat the most safe and effectual means of preventing and curing fevers; the most dreadful scourge that can be inflicted upon man; with indifference and contempt, it is time for people themselves, who are constantly in danger, for their own sakes, and the sake of their friends, to look about them, to open their eyes, and avail themselves of the advice here given from the best intentions.—The neglect of people in general,

general, to improve their knowledge of the proper treatment of fevers, is astonishing. They spend much time and study on parts of natural history, that are curious indeed, but of little or no use. Even philosophers, who would be ashamed of ignorance in any part of science, boast of their ignorance of fevers, and the proper treatment of them, though most interesting to them, as well as others. Hence so many dangerous and infectious fevers, and the loss of so many and so valuable lives. When people are first taken ill, from their great terror of a fever, they struggle with their complaints, and will do nothing effectual till the obstructions are formed, and the fever established. When they become very bad, a physician is called in, but generally so late, that, if he was likely to do any good, the best season is past. If he does nothing more, he fills the minds of his patient and his friends with strong terror. The street is littered, the rapper muffled, the room darkened; the friends of the unhappy sick are carefully excluded. None dare approach but the physician or nurse-tender, except,

perhaps,

perhaps, the apothecary, to administer his clyster. Thus the sick man's apartment is changed into a temple, dedicated to the god Moloch,* and accessible only to his high priest, and such assistants as may be necessary to prepare and offer the human sacrifice. The accounts of his state are not taken from inspection, but from oracular responses from this dark temple, and the priest presiding over its rites. The patient growing still worse, consultations are demanded; the blisters and opiates are repeated and encreased, until death releases him from this dark abode, and from all his sufferings. Was this plan always to succeed, the tax it imposes upon friendship and affection could scarcely fail of exciting complaint; but, as it is generally attended with the very worst success, it is altogether insupportable.

The plan here recommended, on the contrary, will not only be attended with the happiest success, but even in its execution there will

* A god of the Ammonites, delighting in human sacrifices.

will be much satisfaction and pleasure. The patient need not be excluded from the light, or the sight of his friends and dear relatives. A tender mother, or dear wife or sister, administers to him the sovereign specific at the first attack of illness, which rescues him from the most dreadful calamities. The blood restored to its healthful state, the obstruction and sore do not take place, and consequently the fever is prevented, and the sick man restored to his friends and society. There will be no dread of infection, because the fever will not advance to the infectious stages. Thus, instead of having a house changed into an hospital, the whole family filled with dismay, and, perhaps, deprived of one or more dear relatives, there is a slight illness of a few days perhaps, but never alarming, and there is an encrease of friendly intercourse. The kindness of friendship is gratified, by doing the most essential good to him who is the object of it, rendered still more dear by his distress, and the apprehension of his danger.

Much

Much has of late been done, in providing hospitals for fever patients. Nothing can be more honourable for the rich than to consider the distressed state of the poor, and to devote part of their wealth to their relief and comfort. The large sums applied to the building and endowing extensive hospitals for receiving the poor, when visited with that great calamity, FEVER, speaks not only the wealth, but the humanity of the present age. Far be it from me to offer any thing but praise to those excellent persons, who are engaged in this pious and humane work. To help forward this benevolent plan, and to direct the bounty of the charitable, so as more effectually to fulfil the laudable design of the good, is the duty of every one. With this view, a few observations are submitted to the consideration of the worthy founders of such institutions. There is remarkable in the poor of all descriptions, a great aversion to hospitals. They rarely submit to enter them, till reduced to the last extremities. Hence it happens, that the very important time for preventing the fever is past, before they are brought to the HOSPITAL.

PITAL. The fever is formed and advanced before he is fixed there, so that medical skill can do but little comparatively for him. In the small-pox, if the first or eruptive fever be kept down by purgatives and cooling regimen, the disease will be slight, and easily managed in the after stages; but, if the first or eruptive fever be neglected, or improperly treated by heating and stimulating medicines, a load of pustules will come out, and the patient will be brought into the most extreme danger, and the medical art can do little or nothing to save him. This is the case with all other fevers. At the beginning they are easily cured. If they be not entirely prevented, they are rendered so moderate and light, that the life of the patient is not brought into great danger; but this precious season is over before he arrives at the hospital, and the most distressing and melancholy consequences ensue. If then the rich would be pleased to substitute real good in the place of the appearance of it, and the safety and comfort of the poor, in the place of magnificent buildings, and lucrative establishments for governors and superintendants;

ants; let them provide a sufficient quantity of the Antiarthritic Powder to distribute among their poor neighbours. A very small expence will provide a poor widow or two to give it according to the directions laid down above. If this be done at the very first onset of the feverish symptoms, the disease will be entirely removed, and the sick enabled to return to his industry in a very short time. If, however, it should so happen that the disease continued for a few days, poor widows might be enabled to take houses with two or three apartments, and beds fitted up for the reception of the sick. These widows are generally objects of charity themselves; this plan would provide for them, and render them useful, at a very small expence. The sick would be properly nurse-tended, and kept clean; no infectious air would be produced, and the powder being properly administered, the fever would not rise to any alarming height, and the cure would be speedy and certain. People would not be afraid to enter places of this kind and the frequent visits of the well disposed would secure the cleanliness of the apartments, and

the

the proper treatment of the sick. If this plan was followed, there would be little necessity for hospitals; a very short time would leave them without inhabitants; and the increase of health would change those buildings, from being the habitations of sloth and dirt, of jobbing and infection, into work-shops, and places for exercising the industry of the poor. After deducting from these endowments all that would be necessary for the sick, the remainder would become a fund of national wealth, if properly applied, to assist the industrious. This, if lent out to the poor, either in the tools of their trade, or to form a small capital for materials to carry it on, would banish idleness, encrease the comforts of the poor, improve their morals by shewing them the importance of character; and would promote good order, by destroying that unhappy envy the poor are apt to encourage in their minds against the rich, by obliging them to behold the wealthy as their best friends and benefactors.

The chief argument for fever hospitals is taken from the distress and want which immediately

diately seize upon a poor man or woman, when visited with a fever, and the danger of the fever spreading through the populous lodging houses where the poor generally have their habitations. If the plan hinted at above were steadily pursued, there would be but few so poor as not to have some small means of helping themselves in time of need. They would be enabled to rent better and more spacious places for their families: their habitations would be more roomy, and consequently less crowded, and the powder given at the beginning would remove the fever and all danger of infection. But if it should happen that people were taken with fever, who had neither friends nor means, it would be no great difficulty for every neighbourhood to have a sufficient number of apartments at the houses of widows or reduced families for their accommodation. The sick would be more favourably situate for recovery in such places, than in hospitals. The infection would not be so dangerous, these poor families would be relieved, and the whole expence comparatively trifling.

But

As but few will be brought to large hospitals till they are in advanced and dangerous stages of fever. A number of these, placed in the same apartment, must produce an infectious atmosphere. This will be much increased by the excrements of the sick, which will not be so speedily removed as if the superintendants were annoyed by them, which would be the case in the former plan. The sick require to have their mouths continually moistened, but there is no one near to cool their tongue. The care-takers of such institutions are generally too much occupied with the enjoyment of their good fortune to listen to the groans of the sick. The nurse-tenders in such places must be the refuse of human misery, and often of human depravity, and too much hardened to lose their repose by tender sympathy. The unhappy sick is obliged to spend the long night in a pestilential air, deprived of that most valuable medicine, clean water, not to speak of such other refreshments as his state may require. Some of these offensive matters are hurried away in the morning, perhaps before the hour of medical visitation, if the physician

sician be conscientious and punctual. If the physician frequently visits such patients in the morning, his own visits to other families through the day will not be a little dangerous. His carrying infection from this hot-bed will be almost unavoidable. And the spread of infectious fevers from this cause is perhaps not less than from leaving the poor, even in their crowded apartments and populous neighbourhoods.

Jails for confining wicked men who are dangerous to society, and houses of correction for the idle, who are in danger of becoming still more criminal, seem to be unavoidable in all well regulated countries. But the sick should not be treated as criminals. The more they are separated and kept apart from each other, the greater chance they have of recovering; and there is the less danger of the spread of infection in the neighbourhood. All the best medical writers have taken notice that the worst fevers have prevailed in jails, and hospitals: and that from these nurseries of infection those pestilential diseases have issued

which

which have thinned the ranks of men, and sometimes have prevailed to such a degree as nearly to desolate the earth.

A fever prevails in the West Indies, and sometimes in North America, called the yellow fever, which is very mortal and also very infectious. From the accounts given of it, the liver seems to be its seat. This is evident, not only from the patient's becoming of a yellow colour, but also from the powerful effect of mercury in the cure of it. The liver becoming putrified, and containing morbid juices, discharges them into the stomach and bowels, and thereby produces the black vomiting considered as a mortal symptom. It is not to be wondered that the obstructions and inflammations of the liver should soon mortify or suppurate in a climate where meat will not keep sweet four and twenty hours. Heat seems very instrumental in bringing on this fever, and also in its continuance, as it generally declines as the cold advances. From the happy effects of the powder in all the diseases of the liver, it would, in all probability,

bability, prove a medicine of great value in this dreadful disease. As it is generally rapid and of short duration, the powder ought to be administered as directed in other fevers. Though it would probably be superior to every other application in any stage of it, it might be used along with mercury, as it is known greatly to encrease the good effects of mercury, and to prevent both its debilitating the patient, and ulcerating his mouth. The best way would probably be to rub the size of a garden pea, or from the sixteenth to the eighth of an ounce on the region of the liver, rubbing from the pit of the stomach to the back-bone. Care should be taken to open the bowels with clysters or the opening pill. This management would very probably much diminish the mortality of this disease. A gentleman, a major in the army told me he had been cured of the yellow fever, in the West Indies, after the other remedies had failed, by the use of the powder. The surgeon had taken out some of it, and administered it when he thought his situation desperate. A captain in the army returned here from the West

West Indies some years ago; he had had the yellow fever when he went on ship-board, and though he was said to have recovered, he seemed in a very wretched state when he arrived here. His colour was a dark yellow, and he had still so much fever, that danger of infection might very reasonably have been apprehended from him. He began to take the powder in this state. From the first day there were appearances of amendment, and in a very short time, he was perfectly recovered. These trials are all that have been made of the powder in this disease. As however no good and sure treatment of it seems yet to be known, and as the powder is so perfectly safe, and so powerful a febrifuge in other cases, humanity requires that its virtues should be more fully known in this fever.

There is one remark farther that seems to be of importance. This fever is peculiar to hot climates, and hot weather. These are known to affect the liver, and to bring on what are called bilious complaints. There is little or no feeling of pain in the substance of the liver, and

and hence it happens that obstructions are formed, and continue there long before they are much perceived or complained of. An inflammation arising from infection, or probably from the heat or sudden changes of the weather from hot to damp upon an obstructed liver, causes the yellow fever. Those in whom the liver is sound and free from obstruction, are much less liable to this fever than others. It is of great importance to all the inhabitants of those countries that are subject to this dreadful visitation to guard against those diseases that would seem to prepare the way for the yellow fever, or to render its attack more dangerous. The powder by its well known efficacy in opening obstructions of the liver, in rendering the bile sweet and wholesome, would be found a happy preventative of this dreadful disease. And in a disease so quick and so frequently mortal, prevention is of great importance. Was the powder generally and regularly taken before those seasons when the fever begins, there is reason to believe that either this disease would not make its appearance at all, or if it did, prove much less fatal. The trial is safe

and

and easy, and the encrease of general health will abundantly repay the trouble and expence.

CHRONIC DISEASES.

Some medical writers place the difference between an acute and chronic disease in the pulse; they say an acute disease is known by a quick pulse, but a chronic disease by a slow pulse. Some of them say that an acute disease consists in the elevation of the solids above the balance of nature, but a chronic disease in a depression of the solids, below the balance of nature. Thus they attempt to explain all the appearances in the conduct of nature by a great collection of hard words, which when attempted to be explained, have no meaning. Scrophula, and consumption, are chronic diseases, and yet the pulse is generally as quick in them as in fevers. It is sufficient to say, that acute diseases come in a shorter time to their crisis, or end, either in recovery or in death, than chronic diseases which often continue long,

and though they deprive the patient of comfort, do not speedily put a period to his life. Though theoretic physicians seem to have an easy task in explaining the reason of this, and generally throw out a storm of long words, as if nature trusted to them all her secrets, yet the cause of this difference seems as yet little understood. Thus a common boil, though very painful soon arrives at a large bulk, inflames, suppurates, and discharges its contents, then heals up, and disappears. A scrophulous lump greatly resembles a boil; it comes to suppurate slowly, and though it suppurates, it often does not heal, but continues to run till the patient is greatly wasted, and being devoured by the hectic fever, expires in great misery. As the process of nature is mysterious, and often inscrutable in the original formation of things, so she is no less so in the production of diseases, and also in their termination, and expulsion. Yet physicians have spent their whole force to break into the secret chambers, and even closets of nature, and to see all her procedure, but here they have only given range to their own fancy, and have built up fabrics which

nature

nature never owned, and though sometimes specious, are altogether foreign from her plan. Hence we have innumerable volumes written upon physic, and but few remedies. Many systems seem plausible, yet upon trial it is found that they come not within the design of nature, and afford her no help when she most wants it. Hence great reading does not often produce eminence in the art of healing, but in proportion as a man has studied systems, and theories, he becomes great in pride, and dangerous in practice. There is no doubt, a kind of reading most useful, and conducive to the work of healing. This is in the great book of nature, and the works of those who have investigated her designs by the slow, but sure plan of experience. This, though not calculated to command general applause, will commend itself to the wise, and prove greatly useful. While systems and theories are applauded and admired for a season, and pass away to be buried in everlasting oblivion; the results of a judicious and accurate experience stand the test of ages, and become like pure gold, more bright and more precious by their anti-

quity. Had it been the great object to attend to all the minute circumstances of disease, and the effects of all the means made use of to recover the sick, and had faithful histories of these been given, and of their results, and of the appearances of the body after death, it is probable physic would not now be so lame, and defective as it unfortunately is. Great folios have been written, and huge libraries filled, and yet scarce a good remedy known. Even the great discovery of the circulation of the blood did not give rise to any good remedy, nor to any improved treatment of the sick. Those admired authors, who have delighted the world with their ingenious theories, are not mentioned as the authors of any one medicine, that is of considerable use. The few medicines that are known, that can be called useful ones, were all discovered by men who were not physicians, and the virtues of them became known by accident. Thus the medical effects of mercury were discovered by accident, and the medicines themselves were kept long as secrets. Antimony and Jesuit's bark were discovered by monks. Even the happy effects of mercury in dropsy

dropsy were discovered by accident, and by one who was not a physician. Inoculation for the small pox, that most important discovery, did not originate with a physician. A lady of great eminence and distinction introduced it into Europe, and thereby hath conferred a most signal benefit upon society, and rendered her fame immortal.

Nay more: physicians, instead of being the authors of the improvements in physic, have been so elated by an opinion of their superior learning, from being deep read in useless theories, that they have held the authors of these improvements in contempt; and, so far have they been from assisting in bringing those medicines forward into use, have opposed them with all their might. The whole artillery of their authority and credit have been pointed against them, as dangerous innovations. Those medicines, as well as their authors, after struggling with great difficulties, opposed by every cavil and every slander which ignorance, envy, and selfishness could invent, by mere dint of success have risen into estimation. Physicians have adopted them when they could oppose them

them no longer, without sinking themselves into merited contempt and neglect.

It must be admitted, that all new medicines are to be received with caution. As there are among the works of God substances poisonous and destructive of human life, so man is guarded against their pernicious effects by a dread of all unknown things. There are substances also, which, though not immediately poisonous, are less or more hurtful to the general health, such as opium, and spirituous liquors, and tobacco, which, on account of their cordial quality, are often not considered as hurtful, but highly pleasant, and even useful; and so fascinating is the use of them, that men perceive not their danger till it be too late, and their destruction accomplished. All new medicines should be carefully tried, not only as to their safety in general, but also as to their freedom from every quality which might be less or more injurious in their continued use. But it is not enough that they should be safe; they should be superior to every other means of health known. Else why disturb the peace of the world with their

their introduction? And in all cases where medicines are known that will accomplish the cure, those medicines should be applied in preference to any new ones. And in cases where the known remedies sometimes succeed, but where they often fail also, new medicines and treatment should be tried, with proper caution. But in those cases where none of the known remedies at all answer, where they have always or almost always failed, and alas those cases are still very many! there new remedies, provided they do not encrease pain, or hasten dissolution, ought to be tried. And in every case of this kind, a medicine safe in its nature, gentle in its operation, and certain in its success, may be considered as a treasure indeed. Such a medicine, when properly known by experience, and its effects and powers to heal, ascertained by judicious trials through a sufficient length of time, cannot be too highly valued. Such medicine can be known only by trials in the human body. Chymical analysis cannot ascertain the healing power of any substance. The difference between a human stomach, and all the processes and secretions in

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the body, is so great from any thing in chymistry, that it is vain to attempt to ascertain the healing power of any medicine by what takes place in a bottle or crucible. No chymical skill can discover, from art, what chymical quality in meal renders it not only safe, but nourishing and strengthening in the body; or what renders arsenic, which so much resembles meal, poisonous and destructive. Aloes is a safe and useful purgative; opium, which strongly resembles it both in colour and consistence, is poisonous, yet no chymistry can point out the reason of this difference. Every medicine, then, ought to be estimated not by chymistry, but by an accurate and judicious attention to its healing effects in the human body. And every attempt, by pretensions to chymical knowledge, to furnish a substance resembling any great medicine, or to impose it upon the public as possessing the same virtues, discovers equal ignorance and baseness. This may well be called quackery, if quackery consists in imposing upon the credulity of mankind, by a shew of great erudition, though a kind of learning not only useless, but most pernicious.

pernicious. If there was no more harm in this kind of proceeding, than to deprive a man of that honest and well-earned fame which a great and useful discovery entitled him to, and of those profits and advantages he so well deserved, it would be base and criminal. But when it is viewed in its effects upon the public, in depriving mankind of that ease, comfort, health, and preservation, which such medicine is capable of affording, and in circumstances where nothing else can avail any thing, language fails in describing its enormity.

The Cold.

This is a disease of which numbers complain, though but few understand its nature, or apprehend the danger arising from it. It commonly begins with a flowing of water from the eyes and nose, with a tickling in the throat exciting coughing; afterwards the throat feels rough and sore, and the breast as if the skin was off it. It is supposed to proceed from some improper exposure of the body to

cold air, though it frequently takes place in warm countries and seasons. It however frequently takes place upon getting the feet wet, after riding or by walking in rain, sitting in wet cloaths, standing in wet air with the head uncovered, sleeping in damp beds or wet ground, from eating flesh meat suppers and late sitting up. When the termination is favourable the tickling abates, the cough becomes loose, and the spitting free.

This disease consists in the blood and juices prepared and empowered to produce a sore. If they be changed and rendered soft and wholesome before any sore is formed, the termination is speedy. But if the sore or inflammation takes place, then it will be tedious, and the circumstances dangerous according to the situation in which the inflammations take place. Cold is therefore very properly considered as the beginning of all diseases, and people who have caught it seem placed upon the edge of a precipice. The most violent of acute diseases, and the most lingering of chronic ones are traced up to this origin, No wise man will

will trifle with such a disease, but pursue without loss of time the most effectual remedies. As this is a very common complaint, almost every one has a cure for it, and they are all confident in the efficacy of their remedy. The fact is, nature frequently frees herself from it without any aid at all, and whatever has been taken immediately before the cold goes off, gets the credit of the cure. When it gives rise to diseases which become fatal, the want of success in curing the cold is lost sight of in the variety of distresses those diseases occasion: and if the patient dies, he himself and his diseases are speedily forgotten, and the same useless remedies are trumped up with as much confidence as ever. Thus some recommend eating heartily and drinking warm punch going to bed. This, with a warm bed and sound sleep, may sometimes at the beginning succeed; but if this be not immediately the case, the danger must be greatly encreased. Opiates are advised by greater numbers. These stop the tickling and cough more speedily and effectually than the punch, they also promote sweating, which sometimes

cures

cures the cold. But if this effect does not follow the first or second application at the most, they will do as much mischief as the punch. Treacles, liquorices and balsams without end are ordered in colds. These load the stomach, encrease the disposition to inflammation, and consequently fever. It is saying too much for them to call them insignificant, and if joined with opiates which is often the case, this does not diminish the danger or prevent the bad effects of the opium.

People who have got a cold, when the cough is severe and frequent, with spitting streaked with blood, or of blood itself, ought to stay within in a warm room, and avoid every sort of animal food, use thin drink, and gruel freely. They ought to take one or two opening pills at bed-time, washing them down with a dose of the Antiarthritic Powder taken in any drink or sweet-meat. In the morning let the powder be again taken at breakfast: tea is a proper breakfast in the cold, with bread and a little butter. A dose of the powder should be taken every second or third hour

hour through the day. If the pill or pills purge briskly through the day, it will be enough to take them every second night, but if this should not be the case, a pill must be taken every night. This regimen will soon abate the fever and cough so as to make confinement unnecessary; however exposure to the cold air, particularly in cold or damp weather, should be with caution and by degrees. The powder should be regularly taken every three hours, the pill every night or every second night, till the cough, tickling, and difficult breathing be entirely gone. The powder ought to be persevered in for some time longer, after all the complaints are gone, as this will greatly improve the general health.

This treatment of a cold, when begun soon, has never failed of the most compleat success even in one instance. Where it has been adopted and followed, the dreadful effects of cold have not been heard of. Fevers of all kinds are prevented, consumptions are prevented, rheumatisms are prevented, with a long &c. As no tongue nor pen can describe the miseries proceeding from neglected colds, or colds badly

cured

cured, so the good effects of the treatment now recommended, are just as numerous and interesting. Whatever may be thought of other parts of this treatise, let this advice be considered as important. Every man who regards his own safety, or the safety of his friends and family will pursue it. No man can hinder or prevent another from pursuing it, without being chargeable with shameful ignorance or brutal inhumanity. Long and sad experience of the dreadful effects of colds excites this earnestness. Tender concern for suffering humanity and for the increase of health calls it forth, and will not allow that it requires an apology.

Consumption.

This is a disorder which, next to the fever, makes the greatest havoc among mankind. Its victims are generally in the flower and vigour of youth. It is characterised by cough, expectoration of purulent matter, hectic fever, and progressive emaciation. The common people often refer every complaint of slow progress,

progress, and attended with emaciation, to consumption or decline; and perhaps these have a strong affinity to the phthisis pulmonalis, differing only in the situation of the ulcer. An ulcer in any part of the body will occasion a hectic fever. If it be of large extent, it will bring on colliquitive or wasting sweats and purging, and terminate fatally. But it is only when the ulcer is seated in the lungs that there is cough, and expectoration of purulent matter, joined to the other circumstances of ulcer.

This disorder often begins like a cold or catarrh, with tickling cough, sore throat, and spitting; sometimes the spits are streaked with blood, and even clear blood itself. There is then an ulcer forming in the lungs, and, as the blood does not all come up, what remains behind encreases the danger. There is a pain in the breast or side, sometimes both. A violent fit of coughing causes a reaching to vomit. There is difficult breathing, and great anxiety, particularly towards the evening. There are frequent cold chills, particularly at lying down in bed, which are succeeded by burning heat,

and

and profuse sweating, towards morning. The bowels are commonly costive at the beginning, but, after some time, an obstinate purging comes on, which, with swelling of the feet and legs, are the forerunners of death.

This disease still more frequently begins in a manner much more mild, but not less dangerous. There are slight hot and cold fits, with a dry cough; there is some anxiety, particularly towards evening, with difficult breathing, and palpitation upon walking fast, or running up stairs. In process of time these complaints are encreased, with the addition of others. The cough becomes incessant; quantities of purulent matter are spit up; the breathing becomes very difficult, with a sense of suffocation or drowning. At last, night sweats, purging, and swelled feet, point out the immediate approach of death. This kind of consumption, or phthisis, is attended with tubercles, or lumps in the lungs, which suppurate, and form an ulcer; and to this cause all the symptoms owe their origin. Scrophulous patients have tubercles or lumps very similar externally about the neck and joints, and different

ferent parts of the body, and sometimes internally also, which, when they inflame and suppurate, occasion the hectic fever, with all the other complaints, except such as are peculiar to the lungs. Ulcers in the mesentery and in the liver keep up a hectic fever, with wasting of the flesh, and decline of strength. This is called the atrophical consumption, and is esteemed the most dangerous of all others. These different kinds of consumption all proceed from an ulcer in some part of the body, and they all agree in having hot and cold fits, hectic fever, wasting, night sweats, and diarrhœa, and terminate fatally. Phthisis, or consumption of the lungs, alone is attended with cough, spitting up purulent matter, and difficult breathing. These complaints proceed from the diseased state of the lungs. In all other respects it agrees with other diseases proceeding from ulcer. The sore throat, tickling cough, and difficult breathing are very troublesome complaints, and to these physicians have directed their chief attention. The sore throat is relieved by balsams, syrups, and mucilages, and the tickling cough, &c. is suspended by opium,

opium, or mixtures where opium has a place in some form, and is the chief ingredient. Blisters are also applied. These, with resins and gums, and the bark, are the principal medicines recommended in this disease. Riding on horseback, or in a carriage, change of climate or air, with sea voyages, are much relied on. It is not surprizing, that, in a disease which every year carries off a great number of the most promising youths, a great many cures should be proposed, especially as the regular practice affords none that can be depended upon. People seem to have endeavoured, by the number and variety of cures, to make up for their want of efficacy. No doubt, syrups and balsams, and especially when assisted by opium, will often succeed in the catarrh, and in recent inflammations of the lungs; but, where the lungs are ulcerated, or where tubercles are already formed, they will be unavailing, and not only so, but even hurtful. It is not a little surprizing, that, in a great variety of cases, stated on purpose to recommend a public celebrated medicine for the cure of consumption, there is not one case of ulcerated

lungs,

lungs, nor yet of tubercles either formed or ulcerated. It has given relief in coughs, catarrhs, and slight inflammations; it has succeeded in cases where oatmeal tea would have done as well, perhaps better, and which frequently yield to the efforts of nature without any assistance whatever.

The great requisite in the cure of consumption is to prevent the formation of an ulcer, or of a tubercle tending to ulcer, or, if they be already formed, to heal and remove them. It requires no great penetration to perceive, that ulcers in the lungs must be more difficult of cure, than when placed in the external parts of the body. In these the ulcer can be covered from the air, kept properly clean, and assisted by direct application. The lungs are of a spongy texture, full of cavities, and so accessible to the air, that it cannot be excluded; and they are besides perpetually in motion, and nothing can be immediately applied to them. When external ulcers, with all these advantages, so frequently baffle the most boasted resources of art, it is not surprizing

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the ulcer in the lungs should prove so often mortal. No cure has hitherto been known for ulcerated lungs, when the disease is very far advanced. There is not perhaps in nature any medicine that will always succeed in the pulmonary consumption, when got to its last stage. It would be a great matter to be able to say, that any thing was known that would always succeed in the first two stages, and succeed frequently in very far advanced stages. So far the Antiarthritic Powder may be relied on. In the catarrh, with spitting of blood, violent cough, and slight inflammation of the lungs, it will prove a certain and speedy cure. Abstinence from animal food, and keeping warm, avoiding wet, and particularly wet feet, will render the cure more speedy and certain. The opening pill should be taken, so as to give one loose stool every day, and a dose of the powder every two or three hours, according to the printed directions. Wine, and all sorts of spirituous and fermented liquors, should be abstained from till the cough and spitting of blood be removed.

Tubercles

Tubercles in the lungs are more dangerous than catarrh; they are known, as mentioned above, by a dry short cough, heats and colds, by fits, and the hectic fever.

This will also be cured by the above medicines. The cough will go off, the hectic fever will disappear, and the health and vigour be restored. The milk and vegetable diet will be proper for some time, but should not be continued too long. The lighter kinds of animal food may be eaten sparingly, and some wine mixed with water, will be proper in a small quantity.

Ulcers in the mesentery and liver are cured by the same course. These also occasion hot and cold fits, or hectic fever from the formation and absorption of matter. These ulcers either prevent nourishment from passing into the blood, or if any does pass through, it must be corrupted by being mixed with the matter of the ulcers.

It was from seeing the efficacy of the Anti-arthritic Powder in healing external ulcers that an opinion was formed that it might succeed in ulcers of the lungs. The trial was made, and the result fully demonstrated that the diseases were the same. The powder is the most sovereign specific in healing sores, because it does not only heal, it also removes the fever and encreases the strength, and in this is inconceivably superior to every other thing. There is no instance of its failure, except where there was great mismanagement, or where the ulcer had eat into the cavity of the body, or where some of the large bowels were wholly dissolved.

How vain is it then to expect to cure an ulcer in the lungs, by medicines that cannot cure an ulcer in the leg, or the thigh, or in the neck? If they cannot cure that which is easy, how will they cure that which is difficult? Will balsams, syrups, mucilages, or opiates, cure a scrophulous, or cancerous ulcer in the exterior of the body? and how will they cure ulcerated tubercles in the lungs that are so much of the same nature? I would ask a very ingenious author, who

who has lately written on consumption, would his fox glove cure the white swelling, or the tubercles called the evil? If it cannot, is it possible that it should succeed in the ulcerated lungs? Who would expect to heal an ulcer by the perfume of slaughter-houses, the carbonated oxygen imbibed by butchers' arms, or the still higher relish of cat-gut making, soap-boiling, or the admirably salubrious occupation of fish-carrying? This brings the matter to a clear and short issue. Will the means proposed cure an ulcer any where? If it never has done it, where is the good of losing time by trying it upon one in the lungs? Instead of forming a medical geography, to fix the latitude and longitude of those countries where the happy inhabitants are inaccessible to ulcers, let medicines be brought to this test proposed, and as they succeed in this, let them be applied to the ulcerated lungs. Hard is the lot of the consumptive, to be banished from his friends and the comforts of home, to conflict with the hardships and dangers of a sea voyage, to encounter inconvenient inns, bad roads, and worse accommodations, and an untried cli-

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mate; and why? Because his physician cannot cure an ulcer! Nor will he try to find out any thing that can heal it, nor allow that to be used which has already been tried, and found to succeed to a degree unequalled by other medicines, even in those cases where a certain cure is thought to be known. Will any removal to country air, or changes of air, or distant climate cure the scrophula or cancer, or will any sea voyage cure them? Why then imagine for a moment that they can heal ulcerated lungs? This is sufficient to shew the nature of those medicines which are proper in phthisis; and the efficacy of the medicine now recommended may be judged of by the following authentic cases. A little boy about five years old, the only son of his mother, was declared incurable by his physicians. He had a violent cough, difficult breathing, night sweats, and putrid purging; so weak he could not stand. He had also a scrophulous lump in one of his arms near the shoulder. In this state the Antiarthritic Powder was given to him in small quantities at a time, but frequently. He was supported with such vegetable and milk diet as he could take, which

which was very little; his only cordial was a little claret wine occasionally given. In less than six weeks he was much recovered, and in a few months was perfectly well. The scrophulous lump in his arm grew better as his lungs mended. And when the cough and bad breathing were removed, the lump perfectly healed up. There could be no doubt that this was the consumption from tubercles in the lungs, and that those tubercles were exactly from the same cause, and of the same nature with the lump in his arm.

A young gentleman of family and fortune, about the age of twenty, was carried in a chair to the house of a friend, where the proprietor of this powder happened to be. This friend, who had been using some of the powder himself, happened to say, "perhaps your powder might be of use to this gentleman, whose physicians have despaired of his recovery. The case of the little boy who was then nearly recovered, was mentioned. A direction was sent to me to call upon this gentleman the next morning. He was found much wasted by a hectic fever from mesenteric ulcers. He

was indeed so weak and low, that his dissolution was daily expected. He had no cough, but night sweats were troublesome; he had a pain over one of his kidnies. There was a fistulous ulcer in the lacrimal duct of one of his eyes, the eye was enlarged, and of a blackish red colour. This sore had baffled the ablest surgeons, and added much to the gastliness of his appearance. In this state he began the use of the Antiarthritic Powder, he was amenable to the prescribed regimen; under the care of sensible and amiable relations. In the course of a few weeks a change for the better was perceivable. His recovery proceeded gradually, and in a few months he was restored to perfect health. The disease in his eye went off with his other complaints, and by the time of his recovery the sore eye could not be distinguised from the other. Here it is manifest that the internal and external ulcers were of the same kind, and proceeded from the same cause, as they were healed together and by the same medicine.

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Some years after, this same gentleman being a student in the Temple in London, overheated himself with walking, and was visited with a return of his former complaints. The ulcer in his eye returned with greater swelling, and with the addition of a paralysis of the lid of the eye. The lid was swelled and hung over the eye, without his being able to draw it up; some of the faculty were applied to in London, but without any advantage. The care of the eye was committed to an oculist, who was most profound in explaining the nature and causes of the disease, but made no progress in the cure. The proprietor of the Antiarthritic Powder being consulted, advised his return home by short journies and in the easiest carriages. His appearance was frightful, he returned with great difficulty, the powder was applied as before, the cure proceeded as successfully as at first, and was compleated in a shorter time. This eye was also perfectly healed, and the paralysis removed, and has not since returned, though it is five or six years ago. This gentleman, though in

a state of the greatest weakness, took four or five papers of the powder every day, without experiencing sickness or inconvenience.

A lady of great family, connections and fortune having long laboured under bad health became at length phthisical. Her cough was incessant, her breathing difficult, she complained of a pain in her left side. In the right side an enlargement of the liver had thrust out a tumor, though without redness, two or three inches above the the level of the body. There was a violent purging, with swelling of the feet and ancles; she was extremely weak, and her dissolution daily expected. Having told her sister, who is one of the most sensible, and amiable of her sex, that the case was hopeless; that, had I not witnessed certain effects from the means I would use, I should think it folly to trouble her with any thing. If, however, she was not prepared to acquit me of any charge of presumption, I had rather be excused from making any attempt. She said the trial could do no harm: every one had failed who had prescribed for her, and, at the worst, I could

could only fail. The patient herself expressed a strong desire that the trial should be made. A paper of the powder was immediately given, and she was directed to take another at bed time. I called next morning; she had then taken three doses without any sensible operation. She was directed to take two doses more in the course of that day; to support her strength with claret wine, and any kind of food she could take, which was extremely little. She went on taking three doses a day for three or four days more, when I perceived that the purging had encreased, that it was more offensive, and seemed to contain more matter. She said she perceived something moving from the lump in her right side. It appeared that the abscess in her liver was broke, and was discharging matter by the bile ducts into her bowels. I did not then know the extent of the healing power of the powder in obstructions and ulcers; I therefore thought it vain to hope any thing, and advised her to discontinue the powder, to use some mucilage of gum arabic, and to take wine, and every kind of nourishment she could swallow, to support her under

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so great a discharge. The patient possessed a fine understanding, great acuteness, and strength of mind. She anxiously enquired the reason of my advice to discontinue the powder. I told her I apprehended it encreased the purging, that the discharge was too much for her weak state, but, having rested a day or two, and taken some wine and nourishing things, she might begin again. Her reply was remarkable. "Must not this stuff come off before I can recover, and what nourishment can any thing afford while my bowels are full of it?" Her remark was excellent, and much superior to many remarks made even by professional men on similar occasions. She said she was unwilling to discontinue the powder; that she did not think her strength diminished, and that with the divine blessing she would persevere. I was surprized at finding the pulse speak the same language, indicating less fever and consequently more strength. She went on with the powder, and soon encreased her quantity to four or five doses in the day. The spitting became very free, the cough loose, the purging continued, but the lump

lump in her side began to grow less. At last it totally disappeared, the purging ceased about the same time.* The cough and night sweats went off, her bowels became regular, and her appetite returned, she was out of danger in two months; and in three or four she recovered her flesh and her looks. This cure took place

* Night sweats and purging are the laſt fatal symptoms in consumption. Hence the great cry of physicians, nurſe-tenders and all the vulgar, avoid purging and sweating in this disorder. The fact is, nature endeavours to relieve herſelf in this way, and it is only because they do not come on till the ulcer is too far advanced in the lungs, that they afford only a temporary relief. While the obstruction and ulcer are forming in the lungs, the bowels are costive, but when the matter is ripened and passing off there is a lax and purging, and part of that matter being absorbed is discharged by sweat. The weakness arises from the fever kept up by the ulcer, and not from the purging and sweating, which these rather tend to alleviate. If the pill and powder be taken at the beginning of consumption, there will be purging, and probably sweating; but if they be allowed to go on, they will prove critical, and will carry off the obstruction, and heal the ulcer, then all the bad consequences will be prevented. But no sooner is a physician called in, than the powder must be stopped, acids must be given, balsams and opiates administered, reſtringents and bracers, and stimulants, which soon push forward the ulcers, and bring on these fatal symptoms when neither opiates nor balsams can avail any thing. The patient must rise out of a warm bed to avoid sweat, and be even exposed to cold, by which the inflammation of the lungs is increased, and the temporary relief from sweat denied to the miserable patient.

place in the city of Dublin, without any removal to country air, and in a severe season in the months of March, April and May. During her illness, which was of considerable standing, she had every advantage, a plentiful fortune could afford; she had the advice of the best physicians, and the assistance of the most celebrated remedies. She tried the most esteemed waters both in England and Ireland. She tried change of air and sea voyages, having spent some considerable time in Italy and France; she had even consulted the medical peasant in Switzerland. Yet the progress of the disease does not seem to have been stopped, from stage to stage it advanced till she arrived at the very edge of the grave. This demonstrates how little dependence can be put upon change of air, or change of climate; or even on sea voyages, or the prescriptions of the most celebrated physicians in this disease? Nothing will avail that cannot heal an ulcer, and at the same time encrease the strength.

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This case was well known to many of the most honourable and respectable people in Ireland, and in consequence the powder was tried in a very great number of similar cases, and certainly with a success beyond any example. To describe the cases minutely would fill a large volume. But it is matter of fact that in the two first stages of consumption it has not failed in any case, where it was properly taken and continued. In the very last stage it has not always succeeded, but though the cases were of the worst kind, the successful cases have far outnumbered the unfortunate ones, and in several of these the patient or his friends were to blame. The most admired practitioners would have considered one successful case out of ten, in the last stage of consumption, a very important and interesting matter, where not one recovery in a thousand has happened. How great then the change to put it in the power of every consumptive patient, at the beginning totally to prevent the last mortal stage, and to save even in the last fatal stage, two at least out of three. Notwithstanding all this,

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medical men will go on with the old dead march of prescriptions that have always failed, and then to the country, the goats whey, Portugal, sea voyages, and riding. These things amuse for awhile, but they cannot cure the ulcer; the disease advances and the patient falls. I shall describe one case more, of a cure in the last stage of atrophical consumption, because it is very remarkable.

A young gentleman, son to an eminent watch and clock maker, at about the age of twenty fell into a glandular or atrophical consumption. He was the beloved son of very affectionate parents, who left nothing undone in their power, that might contribute to his recovery. The first of the faculty were consulted in Dublin, and after making full trial of their prescriptions, he passed over into England, where the physicians of greatest name were also consulted. Neither their medicines, the sea voyage, nor the change of air, or persevering in exercise seemed in the least degree to stop the progress of his decline. Upon his returning home he became so very bad, that his death was apprehended to be very near. At this time

I received

I receeived a letter from his father, requesting my attendance. I found him given over by the faculty, having no cough or difficult breathing, no pain in his breast or side, but a want of appetite, and weakness to that degree that I should not have been surprized had he died that very night. His extremities were cold, and his pulse did not beat more than 30 times in a minute. He had quit all medicine, but was using electricity, to encrease the heat and quicken his pulse. There was a very good apparatus provided, and I was glad of an opportunity of trying its effects. When he was shocked, and also when he was insulated, I have stood by him, and been insulated with him. To my great surprize his pulse became more slow and more irregular during the operation, so that it vibrated not more than seven or eight times in a minute. I am inclined to believe he would have breathed his last, had he been kept under the influence of the electric fluid but a very short time. Upon removing the electricity, his pulse recovered by slow degrees, but it required a considerable time to come to its former very

weak

weak state. From this and some things I have seen since, I am inclined to believe that no safe or good medicine can be produced from substances deleterious in their nature. The electricity was discontinued. He took four or five doses of the powder every day, without any sensible operation, notwithstanding his extreme weakness. He scarcely took any food, and was supported almost entirely by wine. He was nurse-tended by a very sensible mother, had country air, and a dry habitation. He began the use of the powder in the depth of winter, and the first visible good from it was diminishing the coldness of the extremities. His amendment was so slow and gradual, that though I perceived it, his friends did not, who ascribed it more to my sanguine hopes than any reality. However in four or five months every one perceived he was better. When the season for goat's whey arrived, he expressed a wish to try it; I did not oppose it, hoping it might afford some nourishment and increase of strength. He derived no advantage from it, on the contrary it reduced both his strength and spirits. He was, however, soon restored

by

by the use of the powder, and he resolved to call in no auxiliaries, but to commit his cure entirely to it, under God. In about a year he perfectly recovered his health, and was able to go to his business. He has been since married, and has several fine healthy children.

It appears to some, a matter of importance to ascertain the trades and professions that are less or more liable to consumption. A celebrated modern author on consumption thinks, butchers, catgut-makers, and fish-wives less liable to consumption than others: but that glass-grinders, carpenters, stone-cutters, and cotton-carders are more liable than all others. I am unable to decide this point, never having had an opportunity of knowing from my own experience how the fact is. He has also made enquiries about the countries and climates that are less or more liable to this disease. These enquiries are curious and entertaining, but perhaps not so harmless as might be thought at first. To live in cold, stinking cow houses, or catgut-workers' shops, cannot be conducive to health in general, nor can it be supposed

to

to have the least tendency to heal the ulcer in the lungs. But the observation is made not entirely for the sake of the atmosphere, but to recommend good living, particularly the liberal use of animal food, as the best preservative from the scrophulous and consumptive habit. This doctrine must have a very bad effect upon the poor, who are apt to envy the rich on account of their greater indulgences in luxurious living. Their vegetable food and hard labour were supposed to be repaid by superior strength, and freedom from disease. Food consisting of grain, roots, herbs, and milk, with, now and then, animal food, have constituted, time out of mind, the food of the lower classes of mankind. They constitute still the chief food of the country people, whose health and strength have always been taken notice of, and celebrated. Nature herself points out this kind of food for mankind. When a child is born, the mother is provided with milk for its support. The largest and strongest animals are fed with grass and water only. Carnivorous animals, though they

they be generally fierce, are neither so large nor so strong. And it is said that poor barren countries are remarkable for large men and small horses. It is also evident that children fed upon flesh meat, and indulged in wine, and fermented liquors, are generally much inferior in strength and size to children fed with milk, meal and vegetables. Children and young people fed high with animal food, have generally a rosy, florid look, but though they have no complaint, their pulse is from eighty to one hundred strokes in a minute. Such as are fed upon a vegetable diet, though not so florid, have the pulse from sixty to seventy only. Fever, every one knows, is the cause of weakness; where there is least fever there is most strength. His great partiality for pastures, and his wish to restrain tillage, so conducive to the health and plenty of the poor, that people may be fed with animal food more extensively, needs no comment. It is not improbable that the cotton manufacturers even in Scotland eat more animal food than the Scotch shepherds. Their tendeney

to

to consumption and scrophula must be looked for from some other cause than their want of animal food. The poor people of Ireland live almost entirely upon potatoes with milk. Some times they have animal food, but fish oftener; they have sometimes bread or meal, yet their size and strength are proverbial. As to the shrewd observation that the sore legs of Irishmen soon change into bad ulcers in the West Indies, this would be more likely to arise from drinking new rum, than from the potatoes they had eaten in Ireland long ago. And at any rate so soon as they become acquainted with the Antiarthritic Powder, the case will no longer exist, to fling reproaches at the potatoes. I have certainly seen more scrophula and consumption too, among those who were highly fed with flesh and wine, than among the poor, though the poor are not exempted from those disorders. He mentions an experiment by a Dr. Haighton, upon an animal of a class particularly exempt from consumption. "Two drams of quicksilver "were thrown into one of the veins of a

dog

" dog. In less than two days a degree of " feverishness followed, as appeared by the " hardness and quickness of the pulse. Dif- " ficulty of breathing, and cough quick- " ly succeeded. These symptoms encreas- " ed till the death of the animal. On dis- " section, tubercles were found in the lungs. " Many of these tubercles were full of puru- " lent matter, and on cutting open these " which were still firm, a globule of quicksil- " ver was discovered in the center of each, " forming a kind of nucleus to the circum- " scribed inflammation or tubercle."* This experiment was introduced to illustrate and establish a grand theory of the manner tubercles are formed in the body. This is always the way with theorists, to spend much ink, and time in accounting for what cannot possibly be explained, viz. the secret operations of nature in her productions, yet to multiply hard words upon subjects of this kind appears to them of much more importance than to prevent or cure the scrophula and consumption.

* Beddoes on Consumption, page 151.

sumption. This experiment leads us by the hand to a cause of scrophula and consumption, which, though not mentioned by our author, seems much more important and extensive than all others. Here is a demonstration that quicksilver produced tubercles, and consequent consumption. The venereal disease, for which mercury is given, produces tubercles also, and these will fully account for the increase of scrophula and consumption, without upbraiding the poor with their light meals. Manufacturers have much greater intercourse with capital cities that small farmers; hence the greater frequency of venereal infection, and its consequences, the taking of mercury, scrophula, and consumption.

Great pains are taken to ascertain those countries which enjoy a happy exemption from consumption. But they seem to be few, and hard to find. Little stress is laid upon change of air, and the particular climate of countries, in the cure of ulcers, in the external parts of the body. Phthisis pulmonalis, is an ulcer in the lungs, as the lungs perform their work of

breathing

breathing more easily in pure air, than in that which is damp and foggy; the principal attention in the cure of the phthisis, is paid to the air. The healing of the ulcer though the chief thing, is little minded. Hence the great work about air, climate, and travelling in this disease. The great hardship of sending patients far advanced in consumption, into foreign countries, has been shewn above. Those who have plentiful fortunes and nothing to do, if very desirous of changing place, which they frequently are, may be indulged. And provided they take with them a supply of the powder, and take it freely, they will often recover. But in people who can neither afford money nor time, to fill them with hopes of recovery from a foreign country, which without the powder will turn out disappointment, is cruelty in the extreme. No sooner is any one in a family seized with a consumption, and eased of all the fees he is able to give, though the family be put poor and struggling, he is ordered to the country. There is then two families instead of one; expences are encreased, business is neglected by continual

going

going and coming, and the family is ruined though perhaps not before the dissolution of the patient. Sometimes goat's whey, ass's milk, watering places and southern climates are the fashion, and all are sent off to them. Before men began to study religion, they were often sent on pilgrimages to heal their souls: when they began to think, and read the Bible they saw that their souls could be healed as well at home. And so soon as men in general are instructed in physic, and the art of healing, they will have little dependence upon change of climates for curing the ulcerated lungs. The advantage of their own house, of horses and carriages, of affectionate attention, and above all, of using the powder, will far over-balance any thing arising from change of country. The powder has succeeded as perfectly in Dublin, though a large city, as in the country. Dry rooms, well aired linen and beds, proper meat and drink, have always appeared to me of more consequence than change of air, or even climate. If air and temperature were of much consequence in curing the ulcer of the lungs, Ireland would seem preferable

ferable to all other countries. It is not subject to those great heats that are so troublesome and wasting to the consumptive in southern latitudes. There is less frost in Ireland than any country in Europe, and frost should be avoided by the consumptive. Even the atmosphere of the turf bogs is remarkably salubrious. An experience of many years has shewn that people near great flow* bogs were uncommonly long-lived and healthy. This is not the case near large fresh water lakes. I may be thought singular in thus recommending the air of Ireland to invalids, but many centuries ago men of great eminence entertained the same opinion of it. The character given of it by Donatus, bishop of Fesulæ or Fiesoli, near Florence, more than 1100 years ago, is not unknown to the learned.

Finibus occiduis, describitur optima tellus,
Nomine & antiquis Scotia scripta libris;
Insula dives opum, gemmarum, vestis & auri:
Commoda corporibus, aere, sole, solo.
Melle fluit pulchris & lacteis Scotia campis,
Vestibus atque armis, frugibus, arte, viris.
Ursorum rabies nulla est ibi; saeva leonum
Semina, nec unquam Scotica terra tulit.
Nulla venena nocent, nec serpens serpit in herba,

Nec

* Bogs in a quick or growing state.

Nec conquesta canit, garrula rana lacu,
In qua Scotorum gentes, habitare merentur:
Inclyta gens hominum, milite, pace, fide!

Far westward lies an isle of ancient fame,
By nature bless'd; and Scotia* is her name,
Enroll'd in books: exhauſtless is her store
Of veiny silver, and of golden ore
Her fruitful soil, for ever teems with wealth,
With gems her waters, and her AIR with health.
Her verdant fields with milk and honey flow,
Her woolly fleeces vie with virgin snow,
Her waving furrows float with bearded CORN,
And arms and arts her envied sons adorn.
No savage bear, with lawless fury roves,
Nor fiercer lion through the peaceful groves.
No poison there infects, no scaly snake
Creeps through the grass, nor frog† annoys the lake.
An island worthy of its pious race,
In war triumphant and unmatched in peace?

These remarks upon this celebrated book do not proceed from any want of respect, either for the learned author, or his performance. The work bears the marks of great industry and much judgment, and the author is highly distinguished by his humanity and candour. Who can help esteeming and admiring the following passage, so worthy of being written in letters

* The ancient name of Ireland, see the venerable Beda. Lib. 1. page 24.

† Frogs were not seen in Ireland till about 100 years ago.

letters of gold? "It being a thing always avowed by the members of the profession, and understood out of the profession, that no remedy for consumption was known, how could recourse fail to be had, as is always more or less the case, to advertised secret medicines?" When therefore certain men, choosing to abandon for themselves all thoughts of improving the treatment of a disorder from which they draw immense gains, while they seem to feel every endeavour to supply their deficiences as an infringement upon their almost total monopoly of the lucrative part of the sick trade, reprobate new methods as unjustifiable experiments; let them, in the name of common sense and humanity, be asked the following simple questions: Whether any thing can be more unjustifiable than perseverance in experiments, of which constant repetition has rendered the failure certain? Whether, in such a disease, any innovation, that does not increase pain, and shorten life, can be an object of just apprehension? Whether, after their failure, there does not remain to him who employs extraordinary measures, just the same resources as to the

the adversary of improvement? And whether the innovator is likely to be so stupid, as not to know how to draw the utmost advantage from the saline draught, the chalk mixture, the syrup of poppies, the acid of vitriol, and that whole tribe of palliatives, which, between ourselves, gentle reader! an observant nurse may soon learn to administer to nearly as good purpose as the most specious doctor?* But, to form a just idea of the value of this excellent performance, it is necessary to read the whole of it.—As there is now a remedy found out for consumption, safe, pleasant, and efficacious, people need not trouble themselves with the obstinacy of the faculty, or lose that precious season at the beginning of their bad health, which can never be recalled, but, by having recourse to this remedy in time, avoid all the dreadful consequences of delay. No doubt it is pleasant to say, you are availing yourselves of the most fashionable advice, and correctly following it, but it is still more pleasant to be well, and not to want this advice. If you walk in the steps of those that went before

* Biddoes on Consumption, pages 286, 287, 288.

fore you, you must come to the same end they did. It is only by pursuing the road to health that you can arrive at health. Is it not the greatest weakness to imagine, that you will be cured by a course that has never cured any one else in the same circumstances? Let the powder have a fair trial, and the consequence will be health; but if you discontinue it upon the stale and flimsy pretences, and hacknied useless observations of those, who cannot cure you, your comfort and life will be the forfeit.

Asthma.

This is a disease easy to be known, but difficult to be cured. It differs from the consumption in not being so soon, or frequently fatal. Its invariable symptom is breathing with difficulty, and with a wheezing noise. It is always attended with less or more cough. It is distinguished into spasmodic, and according as there is less or more spitting. Where there is difficult breathing, with cough encreasing or diminishing at intervals, every one knows there is asthma.

Physicians only aim at alleviating this disease. blood-letting where there are appearances of fullness, or blistering, with opium in the dry and spasmodic asthma, are the principal things recommended. Occasional vomiting and keeping the bowels open are allowed to be of some use.

The ingenious Dr. Cullen has very justly observed that there is in this disease a quick pulse and considerable degree of fever, and that at the decline of it there is thick urine with an unusual smell. These symptoms must be occasioned by their usual causes. There is the juices disposed to produce an obstruction, or an obstruction or sore actually formed. Hence these symptoms, and hence, no doubt, the happy effects of the powder in this disease. It must be taken up to four or five doses in the day, both in the fits of asthma, and the intervals, the bowels at the same time kept free, by taking the opening pill at bedtime. No other medicine will be wanted, the fits will become lighter and of shorter duration, and the intervals longer and more free

from

from the disease. By persevering the fits will cease entirely, and the health be re-established. Two cases of asthma, both remarkable, may be useful to the sick.

A gentleman in the early part of life became suddenly asthmatic. His asthma was pronounced by his physicians to be of the dry or spasmodic kind, and allowed to be the most severe and violent they had seen. He soon became emaciated, and in his best times had a cough, short breathing and weezing, but when the fits came on they were dreadful. Every breathing seemed to be his last, he was often obliged to sit in an erect posture for a fortnight or three weeks, without ever lying down in bed, with his chamber window open in the coldest weather, and even then he needed a person to stand at the back of his chair, and wipe his face. During these fits he had a cough but without spitting, till towards the decline of the fit, when a great quantity of matter was spit up or rather thrown up. Then he obtained some relief, his breathing became easy, and he was able to sleep in bed, and to go abroad. When a fit has continued long, and no appear-

ance of abatement, he often got on horseback, and though every one thought him dying, he would spur his horse to a trot, which almost always brought on the discharge of matter, and a recovery followed. His difficult breathing seemed to be occasioned by a bag of matter in the lungs, which being broken by the agitation of riding, he immediately obtained relief.

The distinction of humid and moist, or spasmodic and dry, applied to asthma, does not throw much light upon the subject. For this asthma was both spasmodic and moist. Dry and spasmodic while the matter was collecting and ripening in the lungs, but moist and humoural, when becoming ripe it broke through its containing bag, and was discharged. The powder, therefore, by correcting the blood and juices, would have prevented the formation of the bag of matter, and consequently those fits and spasms proceeding from it: and have rendered antispasmodics unnecessary. When first seised with asthma, he lived on the edge of a great fresh water lake, where he

he carried on trade, which subjected him to much exercise, particularly riding on horseback.

His physicians advised him to leave off trade, and to live at a distance from the lake. He removed from the lake about three or four miles, had a warm, dry house in an open healthy country, he had constant exercise when able to take it, either on a horse or in a carriage. Toward the latter part of his life he had frequent bleedings from his lungs, sometimes so great that his life was in danger. His fits of asthma became less violent, but the intervals were not so free, nor his general health so good. At length his feet and ankles began to swell, a general dropsy came on, and a mortification of the lower extremities put a period to his life. He lived a great many years in this disorder, though he died somewhat under the age of fifty. I was intimately acquainted with him several years, and nothing was wanting, which good nursetending, air and exercise, temperance, and the best medical assistance could do for him.

him. In the other case the powder was taken in proper quantity, and long continued.

A citizen of Dublin carrying on the trade of a plumber, and living in a street remarkable for confined and unwholesome air, for many years laboured under an asthma attended with rather irregular fits of the gout, and a tetterish soreness of the legs. When I saw him first, he was far advanced in life, had a very bloated, broken appearance. In this state he began to use the Antiarthritic Powder. In a short time he exceeded the quantity ordered in the printed directions. It produced no sensible operation except opening his bowels, which had been rather confined. But in the course of a few months his asthma, gout and scurvy disappeared together, and his health was compleatly re-established. This pleasing change took place without any country air, or intermission of business, to which he applied with more constant diligence, as his health improved.

Some

Some considerable time after his recovery, he began to solicit city honours, was much in company, often stayed for supper to a late hour, and lived freely. It was the spring season, and very sharp weather. His asthma returned with great violence, with a hard dry cough. He had again recourse to the powder, and though he took it very properly, the asthma was very obstinate. During this attack he had complained of a pain in his back, a little to the one side of his shoulder blade. He had an aversion to bleeding, it was therefore omitted, and he continued to live rather full, though advised to the contrary. A considerable swelling taking place at his back, where the pain was; his friends took fright, and sent for a physician: he required the assistance of another. Their opinions agreed in condemning the powder, and ordering it to be discontinued, and the patient to be removed to the country. They, however, ordered no medicine, deeming his fate inevitable. To me there appeared a probability that the lump on his back was critical, I therefore advised a con-

a continuance of the powder as the most likely means of assisting nature in her great plan of ripening and discharging matter by this lump, which might be of essential use to the patient. It was, however, thought best to follow the joint advice of two disciples of Esculapius, and to reject my single advice. The powder was discontinued, and the patient removed to the country. The lump, however, continued to encrease, and at last burst, discharging great quantities of matter. The discharge continued for some time, his asthma was much relieved, and in no very long time his back healed up; when his asthma was entirely gone. Upon his back healing, a great running took place in his legs, which had a most frightful appearance. He had recourse again to the powder, and in a few months his legs were healed and his health compleatly restored. It is very probable that had he continued the powder when he was so sagely advised to lay it aside and go to the country, he would have escaped the sore legs, by which he underwent

went great pain and some confinement, though his cure became perfect.

Diseases of the Liver.

The importance of the liver in the animal economy may be presumed from the very size of it. Medical authors are not agreed about the uses of it. And therefore, instead of following them through their various theories and conjectures, it may be more useful to consider the diseases to which it is liable. These are, obstruction, and inflammation, and their consequences. Sometimes it becomes enlarged and hard, and then is said to be schirrhous. There is no sense of pain in the substance of the liver, and therefore these disorders advance far, and sometimes continue long, before they are perceived. The patient complains sometimes of want of appetite, of nausea, of a bad taste in the mouth, of wind, and low spirits, but these are so slight that pains are seldom taken to remove them. When the

liver

liver is diseased the bile secreted in it becomes vitiated, and circulating with the other juices, produces a variety of complaints of an obstinate and dangerous nature. Sometimes the obstructions of the liver form considerable enlargements, or tumours which point outward, rising five or six inches above the level of the body, which inflame and suppurate, and are sometimes opened with a lancet, sometimes they burst of themselves, and discharge great quantities of pus, but this is more rare. Sometimes they burst inwardly and the pus is discharged by the bile ducts, and thrown either upward or downward, or perhaps both. Sometimes concretions or stones are formed in the gall bladder, plugging up the bile ducts and occasioning obstructions, when the skin becomes yellow and the fæces white.

These complaints shew themselves by languor and listlessness at the beginning; there is a want of appetite, and sometimes a voracious one, a pain at the pit of the stomach, and generally a soreness when pressed round the edge of the short ribs. There is commonly

monly a pain in the shoulder-blade, wind in the stomach, sometimes swelling of the stomach, an unpleasant taste in the mouth, some degree of head-ache, seldom very violent, great lowness of spirits, and uneasiness. This disease is commonly neglected at the begining, because the patient is not sufficiently ill to require confinement; it therefore generally advances to the dangerous stages, before any thing is done to remove it. But it is highly important to lose no time, but seriously to set about the cure of it, at the very first appearance of its symptoms. When, therefore, the patient complains of listlessness, languor, uneasiness at stomach, and occasional head-ache, let the powder be taken according to the printed directions, and a pill every night, or at least so often as to obtain a free stool every morning. If the common rules of temperance be observed, no other medicine will be wanted, the obstructions will be removed, the appetite and spirits will become good, and the health be restored. The course here recommended will always succeed in this stage, and prevent innumerable miseries of the most alarming

alarming kind. There is every reason to believe that the diseases of the liver are either the source of all chronic complaints, or intimately connected with them; so that every one desiring to enjoy good health, and to live in comfort, must take care to keep the liver sound and to remove its obstructions at their very first appearance. The means here recommended will be fully effectual. Even in the more advanced stages, failures will not be frequent. The means are safe and easily applied, requiring no confinement or neglect of business, and attainable by almost every person. Stating accurately a case or two which came under my particular inspection, may be of use to illustrate this subject.

A gentleman in the linen business, of large stature, robust make, and florid complexion, between forty and fifty years of age, was afflicted with a liver complaint. In his youth he had resided for some years in Virginia in America, where he had contracted a jaundice, and though he seemed to have recovered of it, he was still subject to bilious complaints, such as

as wind, indigestion, and uneasiness, joined to a teazing tickling cough. Those complaints becoming still worse, he had recourse to the faculty, and not finding relief here, he passed over to Scotland, and consulted some physicians of the greatest name in Edinburgh. When he kept very close to the regimen prescribed, he imagined there was an abatement of his complaints, but still his health was little if at all mended. His cough becoming still more alarming, he was advised to try the waters of Bristol, which he did for a considerable time, but without any change for the better. Upon his return he applied to me, and his disease appearing similar to some I had seen greatly relieved by the powder, I advised him to try it. He enjoyed, through his whole illness, the advantage of country air and exercise, having a country house, and he rode every day on horseback. The powder was taken for about twelve weeks very regularly; his cough was better, but his stomach complaints were little relieved, though I thought his fever was reduced. About this time he was seized with a violent purging, of a dark yellow matter, and

of

of a putrid offensive smell; this continued for a few days, and then ceased. At its termination, his stomach recovered its powers, and his health was completely restored. During the continuance of the purging, some of his family called in an apothecary, who ordered him a dose of rhubarb, but unfortunately he persuaded him that the powder was good for nothing, and that he owed his cure to the rhubarb, and prevailed with him to discontinue the powder. Some time after I was called to attend some of his children, and took occasion to shew him, that the powder, not being able to open the obstruction in his liver, on account of its long continuance, had ripened it, and that the purging was occasioned by the matter passing off. That the powder had produced such a tendency to health as to ripen the abscess, and in a certain degree to heal it; hence his happy recovery to good health! That it was folly to suppose that a course of rhubarb could produce the change he happily felt, much less one dose of it; but that, as the sore could be but imperfectly healed, that he still needed the powder, and that, should he unhappily

happily neglect it, the disease must return, with all its alarming and distressing circumstances. He, notwithstanding, continued to ascribe his cure to the rhubarb, and neglected the powder; and yet so perfect was his cure, that his health continued good for five or six years. But about that time his health began to decline, and his former complaints to return. The apothecary was applied to; the rhubarb was administered, but without advantage. One physician was called in, and then another; the usual remedies were administered; at length they pronounced him better, and his friends entertained the pleasing hope of his recovery, but the abscess broke suddenly, and he died a few hours after. Here a man of good natural sense experienced a most remarkable recovery by the use of one medicine, and yet was persuaded it had done nothing at all for him. Upon the return of his disease, the very same physicians who had failed before were called in, and the former happy means of cure neglected. These physicians who witnessed the inefficiency of the means they had used for removing his first illness, never expressed the least

least surprize at the cure having taken place, nor did they ever enquire how it had been effected. The more evident the safety and efficacy of the powder became, the greater interest they seemed to take not in commending it, but preventing its use, and thereby perpetuating the sufferings and afflictions of mankind. *He sunt lachrymæ rerum!*

A lady about fifty years of age, of a strong make, laboured under a disease of the liver. The tumour having pointed outward, was opened by a surgeon, and after discharging for some time, dried up. It afterwards swelled and filled again, and was opened, which happened at least once more. Upon its filling again, attended with swoln legs, and large scorbutic irruptions on the face, she was induced to apply to me. The powder was administered, and her bowels kept free by opening physic given occasionally. Continuing this course for some weeks, the tumour burst open of itself, a great quantity of matter gushed out, and in it a gall-stone of an uncommon size. This discharge continued very large for some

some time. At length it gradually dried up and healed. When her health was perfeetly restored, and the tumour has not sinee returned. Her legs were cleared of swelling, and her face of blotches, so that she looked at least ten years younger, and is still alive and well, after having buried her husband.

The Jaundice.

Though this is a morbid affection of the liver, it has a peculiar charaeter and appearance, and is eommonly treated as a distinet disease of that bowel. In this the eyes and skin are yellow, the stools whitish or ash-eoloured. There is a listlessness and drowsiness, and for the most part a want of appetite. If the disease continues long, the eolour becomes of a darker yellow, sometimes almost blaek, the liver becomes scirrhous or suppurates and produees a fatal purging; this or dropsical swellings cut the thread of life. This disease eonsists of gall-stones stopping the bile duets, or of obstruetions eausing hard swellings in the liver

ver, producing the same effects. The cure consists in removing the gall-stones, or in opening the obstructions of the liver. When the disease arises from gall-stones, any agitation of the body, such as vomiting or purging, riding or walking, may happen to disengage the stones, and so prove a cure. These stones are often removed by secret efforts of nature, and whatever was taken last gets the credit of the cure. And this is perhaps the reason that so many odious things evidently of no use in this or any other disease, are recommended as infallible cures for the jaundice. To cure the jaudice it is necessary to heal the liver; the very existence of gall-stones supposes a diseased state of liver, and though a variety of things might drive those stones out of the bile ducts, restoring the liver to soundness is not so easy a matter; hence the fatal wastings and dropsies that so frequently succeed the jaundice.

That the powder is the best remedy in the jaundice, appears from what is said before on

diseases

diseases of the liver. It must be taken according to the printed directions, keeping the bowels very free by the opening pill. The obstructions will soon be removed, the eyes and skin will recover their whiteness. If the medicine be continued, the cure will proceed gradually till perfected in a compleat recovery. Gentle exercise either on horseback, or walking will be proper in fine weather. Drams are to be avoided, and the strictest temperance in all things observed. In a variety of cases where this course was pursued, I have not known one unfortunate.

The Dropsy.

This disease, if not arising from, is generally connected with a diseased liver. Of this we have frequent examples in the inferior animals. The patient complains of great thirst, fullness and swelling in the stomach; at length the whole abdomen or belly swells, the limbs also swell, and a mortification in them is commonly the forerunner of death.

The

This disease appears also in collections of water in the thorax or breast, and sometimes in the head or brain. Though this disease is dangerous in the highest degree, the patient is seldom apprehensive of danger, and will scarcely admit that he is dropsical. Those that live high, and indulge themselves in drams and cordials, or much wine, are apt to fall into a dropsy.

Physicians ascribe this disease to weakness in the absorbent vessels. No doubt there is a weakness of those vessels, but what causes this weakness? When diseases are said to be nervous, or to proceed either from general or partial weakness, we are put in mind of the reasoning of the Indian, who being asked how the earth was supported? said, a huge elephant bore it up upon his back: but upon being pressed by enquiries how this elephant was supported? replied, that there was a huge tortoise with an immense broad back, upon which the elephant stood; but could give no farther account of the causes of the stability of the earth. Theories to account for the

proximate

proximate, or remote causes of dropsy, are many, and some of them ingenious, yet none of them are either satisfactory or useful. But to discover a medicine at once safe and efficacious to prevent this disease, or to stop it in its fatal progress, is an important benefit to mankind. Though this be the case, yet to form theories, and to study them, is the way to the character of learned, and to all the honours and emoluments of medical practice. But to propose a medicine, though possessing the highest virtues, would subject its author to the opprobrious name of empirick, and to every kind of insult and ill usage. The boy who first discovered the use of mercury in the cure of dropsy, did more for the good and safety of mankind, than the authors of huge systems and folios, under which the press hath groaned for many centuries: yet his name is scarcely known, nor have we heard that the discovery was ever properly rewarded.

Instead of saying much about inhelant or exhelant vessels, or dwelling upon those curious

curious disquisitions upon the causes of dropsy, or the nice divisions by which it is distinguished, so copiously detailed by medical writers, it is sufficient to say, that the disease is abundantly easy to be known, but extremely difficult to be cured.—I shall relate a fortunate case of dropsy, cured by the Antiarthritic Powder alone, which came under my own experience.

A lady of fortune, about the age of fifty, was seized with dropsy; she was mother of several children, some of whom were of age when she was first taken ill. After trying every thing recommended by the physicians in Dublin, she went over to England, and consulted some of the most fashionable physicians in London. After spending near two years in trying their prescriptions, she was declared incurable, and advised to return home. Upon her coming to Dublin, a lady living next door to her house, who had been long in bad health, and was advanced to the last stage of consumption, had been cured by the Antiarthritic Powder. This cure made much noise, and induced

duced this dropsical lady to ask my advice. When I saw her first, the abdomen, or belly, and legs were greatly swoln. She had had a fine complexion, but at that time her colour was a dark yellow. The region of the liver felt hard, and was thrust out above the level of the body; the tongue was white, and the thirst great. She was anxious to try the powder, which, though given in considerable quantity, rather more than recommended in the printed directions, had for some time no sensible operation. I perceived, however, that her pulse rose, and indicated more strength. She perceived that her thirst was less, and, in about a fortnight, this troublesome complaint went off entirely. A week or two after she began to vomit, and purge great quantities of matter, of a very offensive smell; upon this her pulse improved, her side became more soft, and her swelling subsided. As the purging and vomiting subsided, she found her appetite improve, and her spirits began to revive. About this time great blotches struck out over her whole body; this appearance gave her great offence, and she was nearly tempted to throw aside the powder

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on account of it, as she dreaded it would never go off. These also disappeared, and she perfectly recovered her health. This case is certainly sufficient to shew the admirable effects of the powder in dropsy; but I have seen two or three recoveries from dropsy where the powder was not given, and where mercury alone was used. In the cases where the mercury was used, though the water was completely evacuated, and the patient seemingly cured, yet the health was not fully restored. One of the patients died suddenly, about six months after the water was evacuated. In another, after a year's interval, the dropsy returned, and proved fatal. The third is still living, though, I believe, rather in poor health, and I have known the mercury, though skilfully tried, totally fail. But the case above described, where the powder alone was used, was a recovery to perfect health. A good many years have elapsed since, and the disorder has never returned. The powder has been tried in many other cases, though not of such long standing, and always with the happiest effects.

From

From what I have seen of this disorder, I am inclined to think that the following treatment is the best, and likely frequently to succeed. To begin with giving one of the opening pills, at bed-time, for three or four nights running, giving at the same time three or four doses of the powder in the course of the day. After continuing the powder for about a week, and the pill occasionally, after the bowels are well opened; then rub in at bed time, something from the sixteenth to the eighth of an ounce of strong mercurial ointment, according to the age and strength of the patient, upon the right side over the liver, keeping the patient from cold. And when his mouth begins to grow sore, the rubbing must be omitted, and the pill and powder continued, as it ought to be through the whole course. When the soreness of the mouth subsides the rubbing should be renewed, and thus renewed or omitted according as the mouth is affected, till the water is all discharged, and the swelling gone. When this happens, the mercury is to be wholly laid

aside and the powder to be taken alone, or with the pill occasionally, if the bowels be not sufficiently free. By persisting in this course the remains of the disease will not only be removed, but the mercury will be compleatly carried out of the body, and the health perfectly established. But if in those cases of bad health which usually terminate in dropsy, the powder be timeously and liberally taken, the dropsy will seldom occur. I am warranted in saying this, as in an experience of many years, one case to the contrary has not happened. This is both a pleasant and easy way of escaping that dreadful disease, dropsy, well deserving the attention of all who would enjoy ease and comfort, and long life.

Nervous Diseases.

This is a general denomination of a great variety of complaints. Such are hysteric and hypocondriac affections; epilepsy, palsy, spasm, and many others of less note. They are attended less or more with indigestion, flatulence,

lence, or wind in the stomach, sometimes with sickness and vomiting, pain at the pit of the stomach, of the side and breast, low spirits, wandering pains, noise in the ears, unsteadiness, fickleness, languor, and sometimes strange appearances before the eyes, cramps, spasms, faintings, convulsions. So strange and unaccountable are the appearances in those diseases, that formerly they were ascribed to witchcraft or the power of demons. Ignorant people still view them as proceeding from these sources. The cures prescribed for them are still called carminatives, or charms, and many even above the vulgar have recourse to the most ridiculous ceremonies and practices as infallible cures. The ceremonies and amulets, though producing no cures, are at least harmless, and therefore much preferable to the carminatives, which being mostly of a heating nature, are not a little pernicious. The unhappy patient runs from doctor to doctor, from one watering place to another, and sometimes from climate to climate, his spirits sinking, and his strength declining, his life an intolerable burthen, though tormented with a

constant dread of death. At last some sudden fit, or lingering consumption, or incurable dropsy, delivers him at once from life and his miseries. Others have ascribed those diseases to defects in the nerves themselves, such as relaxation, or too great sensibility of the nervous system; and accordingly endeavour to cure them by medicines that operate upon the nerves, such as opium, asafœtida, bark, and some other things of the same qualities.

The nerves are less or more affected in all diseases, and if they are differently affected in those diseases, that are called nervous, this does not arise from any defect in the nerves, but from some peculiarity in the juices or substances affecting the nerves. In those diseases as well as others the nerves are not active but passive, and the cure depends not upon stimulating, or any other way operating upon the nerves, but upon removing those things which offend the nerves, and relieving them from those enemies that oppress them. For illustration, let us suppose a man having his thumb fastened in a thumb-screw, a species of torture used formerly in

some

some European countries. He immediately becomes nervous, he feels sick, he faints; startings, tremblings, and convulsions come on. Suppose a physician called in, who sees all the symptoms, but is kept entirely ignorant of the thumb-screw, he will pronounce the case nervous, he will prescribe opiates to quiet him, he will perhaps also order wine and bark to strengthen the nervous system, but these things will not at all avail to prevent a locking of the jaws and death. But had the thumb-screw been taken off, the nerves would have been found equal to their duty, and medicines unnecessary. A thorn in the foot often produces nervous symptoms, faintings, and spasms have been occasioned by walking in tight shoes, that have pinched the feet very much. Attempting to cure those diseases by medicines applied to the nerves, and that have a direct effect upon them, without removing the real cause, the thorn or the tight shoe, is just of a piece with the usual practice in nervous cases.

Those diseases agree in their general character and circumstances with all others. There is a disposition in the juices to produce

duce a sore, or a sore actually formed. The sore may be produced by worms or by the bites of venomous animals, but still it is a sore. The bites of venomous animals seem to communicate to the juices a power of inflaming and ulcerating a great variety of the finer parts of the solids. But the greater part of nervous diseases do not proceed from external injuries, but from causes which take place in the internal parts of the body. We know as little how the juices are prepared to produce a sore without the communication of infectious matter as with it; but we see the fact, and are certain that the juices some how or other produce a sore, and that this sore produces all the symptoms which constitute a nervous disease.

For establishing this point, I shall produce a voucher worthy of all credit, the late learned and ingenious Dr. Robert Whyte, of Edinburgh, in his observations upon nervous diseases, after proving the existence of an arthritic or gouty humour in the blood and juices, which is a disposition to produce a sore; hath demonstrated the existence of the sore, and that this keeps up or continues the disease.

disease. Thus, at page 202, he describes a case directly to this purpose. " A maiden gentlewoman, about thirty years of age, in " September 1755 began to complain of want " of appetite, and wind in her stomach, and " lost her flesh and strength. From the be- " ginning of March following, her pulse be- " came quicker than natural, and she began " to bring up every thing she swallowed, two " or three hours after, and seldom went to " stool without a clyster. When her sto- " mach was empty of victuals, she threw up " tough phlegm, which, a few days before " her death, was mixed with some blackish " matter. She never complained of any acute " pain, but only of an uneasiness and tight- " ness about the stomach. Her bowels were " much distended with wind, which gave " her a great deal of trouble; and the air " frequently shifting from one place to ano- " ther produced considerable swellings; which " could be easily felt outwardly. After try- " ing various medicines to little purpose, she " died about the end of May. Upon open- " ing her body, the colon was observed to

" be

" be much contracted in several places, and " in the right side to adhere to the perito- " næum. But the chief cause of her com- " plaints and death appeared to be a scir- " rhous tumour which spread over the whole " pylorus, and a small part of the stomach " adjoining to it. The sides of the pylo- " rus consisted of a firm cartilaginous sub- " stance near an inch thick, and the passage " was so straitened as scarcely to admit a " quill. On the inside of the pylorus were " found some small chops and inequalities, from " which, as I imagine, a considerable part of the " phlegm which she vomited might come. " Be that as it will, it is scarce to be doubted " that the black coloured stuff was furnished " by the mouths of the small blood-vessels " in those ruptured parts of the pylorus. If " these vessels had been larger, this matter " would have had more of a dark brown, or " reddish colour; or blood itself, either fluid " or clotted, would have sometimes appear- " ed. At no rate could this matter come from " the liver, for that part was sound, nor sup- " posing it otherwise, could any thing have

" easily

" easily passed from the duodenum into the
" stomach, on account of the straitness of
" the pylorus.

" A female child, which from its birth
" had been afflicted with wind, gripes, and
" violent convulsions, died at the age of five
" months, after many remedies had been used
" unsuccessfully. Nothing preternatural was
" discovered upon dissection, except a por-
" tion of the colon, about five inches in length
" quite scirrhous.

" A gentleman aged sixty, who had been
" above three years subject to cramps and
" pains in his stomach, want of appetite,
" belching, fits of sickness and vomiting, be-
" gan in spring 1748, to throw up a dark
" coloured liquor like coffee grounds, and to
" void the same by stool. In the end of
" April 1749, he vomited a greater quantity
" of this black stuff than ever, and soon after
" he threw up about an English quart of blood,
" mostly clotted, which reduced him so low,
" that he never recovered his flesh or colour.

" throughout the summer, he continued in a
" declining way, being much oppressed with
" belching, sickness at stomach, and frequent
" reachings to vomit, though rarely bringing up
" any thing, but a tough phlegm till the be-
" ginning of October, when after severe sick-
" ness, he one morning vomited a great deal
" of blackish coloured stuff, and in the even-
" ing a considerable quantity of clotted blood.
" On the 15th of this month, about eleven
" in the forenoon, after reaching to vomit,
" he complained suddenly of a sharp pain
" below the false ribs of his left side, imme-
" diately after which, his pulse began to
" sink, and he died at two o'clock. His body
" being opened, the coats of the stomach were
" found thick and scirrhous in several parts,
" especially about its left orifice. In those
" parts several small ulcerations and chops
" were observed, and near the bottom of the
" stomach a hole as broad as a shilling. This
" part which had been shinner than the rest
" of the stomach, seems to have given way
" on the morning before the patient died,
" and the laceration was probably the cause

" of

" of that sharp pain he complained of in his " left side. There was nothing in his stomach, " as all its contents had been emptied into the " cavity of the abdomen." See page 200, Edinburgh edition. And again, page 196, he says, " Scirrhous or other obstructions in the " stomach, intestines, liver, spleen, pancreas, " mesentery, uterus, and ovaria, often pro- " duce symptoms of the hypochondriac or " hysteric kind; such as want of appetite, " nausea, cramps in the stomach, vomiting, " sometimes of a black or bloody coloured " matter, flatulence, and crudities in the first " passages, hectic heats, cold sweats, low " spirits, and other complaints, more or less " violent."

Here it is demonstrated that nervous diseases consist, first, in a preparation or power in the blood and juices to produce a sore, or scirrhous obstruction; and secondly, in the sore or scirrhous formed and established. And all this vast variety of symptoms and complaints, for which those diseases are remarkable, arise from this one simple cause, A SORE, differing from

from other sores only in its situation, being always found either in the stomach, or some of the bowels in the abdomen, or lower part or division of the cavity of the body. The sore or scirrhous, when formed, does not only occasion either pain or uneasiness in the part where it is situated, but the matter, being absorbed into the blood, renders the blood and juices offensive to the nerves, and all the finer parts of the body through which it circulates. The cure of those diseases requires to disarm the blood and juices of their disposition or power to produce a sore or obstruction, or, if the sore or scirrhous obstruction be already formed, to heal and remove it. Nothing is more obvious, from Dr. Whyte's dissections, than that this is the only way in which those diseases, with all their innumerable complaints, can be removed, or even alleviated. But what are the remedies proposed by this very ingenious man himself in those diseases? Bitters, bark, elixir of vitriol, chalybeates, and cold bathing. Was it from the view his own dissections gave him of those diseases, or from preconceived opinions, and the authority of former

former writers, that he prescribes those remedies? Certainly from the latter. Had he considered for one moment, that the disease consisted of an ulcer, or scirrhous sore in the stomach, or some of the bowels, as he assuredly knew was the case, he would have put no dependence in remedies of this kind. He was too sensible not to admit, that though those things might occasionally expel wind, and, by lessening the sensibility of the nerves, and cheering the spirits, might give a sort of temporary relief, yet they had no power to heal the sore, and therefore must always fail of a complete cure. Nay there is great reason to believe, that, notwithstanding the seeming relief they might afford from some of the symptoms, yet, by their acrimony and heating qualities, they tended to aggravate the disease, by enlarging the sore, and encreasing the scirrhous obstruction. The abdominal viscera, when obstructed or ulcerated, are not so hard to be healed as the lungs, when affected in the same way; but the remedies here recommended could not heal an ulcer any where, not even in the external parts of the body, where it is attended with the least difficulty.

In

In admitting that these diseases are incurable, he admits the inefficiency of his own remedies. In his opinion, these diseases arise from an arthritick or gouty humour in the blood, which offends the nerves; and he says, that no good antiarthritic medicine was known, that is, a medicine capable of subduing this humour in the blood, and preventing those obstructions and sores which it tended to produce. The injuries done by this humour on the bowels must therefore, in his opinion, be without remedy; for he says, page 322, "When great and confirmed scirrhous "obstructions in the abdomenal viscera are the "causes of hysteric or hypochondriac com-"plaints, they are not only incurable, but "likely to prove soon fatal."—Few can pretend to equal, much less to surpass, in learning or penetration, the justly admired author of Observations upon Nervous, Hypochondriac, and Hysteric Diseases; but any person may find a diamond, and the greatest discoveries have been made by accident. Had this great man seen the effects of the Antiarthritic Powder in those diseases, he would have experienced

perieneed the most sincere pleasure. Raised far above the baseness of envy, he would have congratulated mankind upon the happy diseovery, and by extending its use would have given health to the afflicted, and eomfort to the miserable.

Let, then, such as labour under those complaints take the Antiarthritie Powder, according to the printed directions, using the opening pill as often as is necessary for keeping the bowels free. The regimen necessary is to use only fresh meat, and that once a day, to use moderate exercise, and to avoid drams and cordials, and to be temperate in all things. Even tea, so much reprobated by theorists, will be found not only innocent, but even useful. No eold or other danger is to be apprehended in this course. The patient, as the ulcer heals, will experience a different feeling from what he used to do. His views of things will brighten up; instead of a continual anxiety and depression, he will become aequainted not only with hope, but with joy, and a grateful sense of the divine goodness, in bestowing upon him his existence.

We

We see, in this account of nervous diseases, that, though they are frequently considered as imaginary, and the complaints of those labouring under them derided as of no importance, yet they are as real as any other, and fully entitled to compassionate attention. It is unjust to charge such patients with sloth, and it is cruel to prescribe for them cheerful company, labour, and travel, when they have not health nor spirits to enjoy either. If, however, they must be forced from the comforts of home, and the soothing conversation of their relations and friends, to encounter the hardships of bad roads, crowded inns, rainy weather, and the neglect of strangers, let them first try a course of the Antiarthritic Powder, and they will find themselves much more able to struggle with difficulties. Let them provide themselves with a sufficient quantity of the powder, and carry it with them on their travels, and, by using it as at home, they will find that which would have proved only labour and toil, will be pleasant and agreeable. Though I think the powder will

do

do without travelling, yet I am pretty certain travelling will not answer without the powder.

There is always in nervous diseases a considerable degree of fever kept up, as in other fevers, by the scirrhous or sore. This occasions a debility of mind, as well as of body, so that the afflicted are not only low spirited, but absent, forgetful, and fickle. They are peculiarly subject to that universal symptom of a weak mind, great credulity; hence the difficulty of curing those diseases. Every new story is believed, and every recommendation listened to; so that, however efficacious the remedy, time is not allowed to effect the cure. Practitioners of great name favour this humour for very obvious reasons, by saying, that every medicine which produces not its effect in a week or fortnight ought to be laid aside. This doctrine is grateful to the impatience and curiosity of the patient, and perhaps profitable to the doctor. But, if it was known and considered, that these diseases are in reality a scirrhous sore in some of the abdomenal viscera, it would be evident that nothing could be

be of considerable use in them, which cannot cure an ulcer in the external parts of the body. And the only medicine yet discovered capable of doing this cannot do it very soon, but requires long continued and stedfast application.

Epilepsy, or Falling Sickness.

The nature of this disease is well expressed in the name of it. The patient is suddenly deprived of sense, is thrown down, some part, and at times several parts of the body agitated, distorted and convulsed. He generally foams at the mouth, and seems throughout to labour under great pain and distress. After some time he falls into a sleep, and commonly awakes in his usual health. Much has been written on this disease, and its production has been assigned to a great variety of causes. The brevity studied in this work does not admit that these should be all enumerated, much less dwelt upon. However it may be satisfactory just to mention the names of the proximate and remote causes of it, as

stated

stated by a modern learned writer much celebrated for the accuracy of his divisions. He calls the disease an affection of the energy of the brain, and says, the causes are either occasional or predisponent. Occasional causes act by stimulating and exciting the energy of the brain. The second or predisponent, acts by weakening the same: for expressing which he uses the terms excitement and collapse. The causes of excitement are, first, mechanical stimulants, second, chemical stimulants, third, mental stimulants, fourth, stimulus of over distention. Mechanical stimulants are instruments in the substance of the brain, splinters of the skull when broken, or sharp pointed ossifications from the internal surface of the cranium, or formed in the membranes of the brain. Chemical stimulants, fluids lodged in certain parts of the brain. Mental stimulants are joy and anger, horror from seeing the painful agitations of the limbs, and the distortions in the countenance of epileptic persons. Also, over distension of the blood-vessels of the brain. A

fit

fit of anger, heat of the sun, a warm chamber, violent exercise, a surfeit, a fit of intoxication, impressions producing a high degree either of pleasure or pain, teething of infants, worms, acidity or acrimony in the alimentary canal, stones in the kindneys, matter in abscesses or ulcers, acrimony diffused in the mass of blood. Hæmorrhage, whether spontaneous or artificial, odours or smells, poisons, aura epileptica, or sensations of something moving in some part of the limbs, or trunk of the body till it arrives at the head, when the patient is immediately deprived of sense, and falls into an epileptic fit. Predisponent causes, the state of the mind, easily elated by hope or depressed by fear. Mobility of constitution, this from sensibility, or irritability, debility, plethoric habit of body, and sleep.

All explanations require to begin with things well known, and to proceed to things less known. This celebrated author begins his explanation of the causes of epilepsy by that which is least understood of all other things, namely, the energy of the brain. If our author

thor has any very clear idea attached to this expression, he is more fortunate than many of his readers. We need say little of the energy of the brain till we know more of its uses, and the manner in which it produces its various effects. The healing art has certainly suffered much by the vast number of unintelligible words introduced into it, from ignorance of the subject. But it has suffered more by attempting to limit every disease within a boundary hedged up by definitions, so as to require medicines only adapted to itself. Physicians thinking they must find a remedy for every disease defined by themselves, have failed in finding a good remedy for any disease. Nature is sparing in the number of the causes of her various effects, and she is as simple in her causes of diseases, as any other of her productions. But it is not new with writers to think they see farther into the intentions of nature than the reality of those intentions.

Though there certainly is a difference perceivable between epilepsy, and hypocondriac and hysteric diseases, yet this difference is more

more apparent than real. We have seen that these diseases proceed from a disposition to produce a sore, or a sore actually formed, and epilepsy will be found to proceed from the very same causes, with differences arising from the circumstances and situation of the sore. The causes mentioned by the above author will agree in the main, at least as far as they are intelligible with this account. Neither the brain nor nerves are primarily in fault in this disease; they suffer injury, but they inflict none; and all that is necessary, to the curing of this disease, is, to remove from the brain and nerves that matter which offends them. Thus our author mentions sharp-pointed instruments penetrating the brain, and bits of broken bones in a fractured cranium, as causes of epilepsy. Now these causes, though they seem different, are the same in effect; they produce a sore in the brain, and that sore occasions the epilepsy. Worms in the bowels bite and wound them, and produce a sore, and that sore occasions the epilepsy. Teething has the same effect, for the same reason. Poisons and infections produce the same effects,

fects, for the same reasons. Acrimony, acidity, and stones in the gall-bladder and kidnies produce sore, and consequently epilepsy. The juices charged with matter to produce a sore, or with matter absorbed from that sore, causes epilepsy. He mentions the matter in abscesses and ulcers, and acrimony diffused in the mass of blood, as causing epilepsy. This perfectly agrees with my account. Here is the blood, with acrimony diffused through it, or prepared to produce a sore, and abscesses and ulcers already formed. Hæmorrhage, or excessive bleeding; when this takes place in the brain, it occasions epilepsy, but if very great, it extinguishes life; but this is from the rupture of a blood-vessel, and consequently a sore; and this accident is much more apt to happen from the acrimony or depraved state of the blood, than from any excess in its quantity. However, a redundancy of blood is a disease; it is the blood prepared to produce a sore by the rupture of the vessels, and it is to be disarmed of this power, and reduced to its proper bounds, by the same medicine that will heal the sore or ulcer.—As to his other causes of epilepsy,

epilepsy, such as horror, love, joy, fear, anger, they belong more to the region of romance than the art of healing. They may do much to garnish a novel, but will avail little in removing disease. The beautiful story of the great cure of epilepsy in the orphan-house at Haerlem, is well calculated to amuse a circle of old women smoking tobacco, and drinking gin about a Dutch stove. But who ever repeated the experiment with success? What would people in their senses say now, even of Boerhaave, did he proceed with a red-hot piece of iron to operate upon a man struggling in a fit of epilepsy? Or did any man ever see the terror of being burned (for this is the whole amount of this wonderful cure) prevent a fit of epilepsy? So far from it, the unfortunate patient will fall into the fire, as soon as on a bed of roses, and many have thereby perished miserably. When very young, I believed the learned Boerhaave imposed upon in this business. At Haerlem, a fit of laziness, a disease to which young people are more subject than even epilepsy, had seized the children, and they pretended fits to be excused from performing

forming their tasks. And certainly the doctor's medicine, though signifying nothing in epilepsy, yet being a red-hot piece of iron, was a specific in the disease called laziness, not easy to be resisted or equalled.

If sharp-pointed ossifications in the skull be the cause of epileptic fits, as the cause is permanent, the fits would be incessant. If, then, fits proceed from such causes, they must speedily prove mortal. The same remark will hold with respect to discharges of blood, or collections of water, in or upon the brain. These must soon extinguish life, and put a period to all human misery. Something, perhaps, might be done to prevent the formation of such causes; but, if they be once formed, their effect is inevitable, and without remedy. The only cases of epilepsy that admit of hope or cure, arise from scirrhous obstructions, or abscesses in the body, mostly in the bowels of the abdomen. There is, perhaps, little difference between the sores producing hypochondriac and hysteric diseases, and epilepsy, except that in the latter more matter is pro-

duced. I once saw very frequent epileptic fits from an abscess in the leg; but when it had suppurated, and was let off, the fits ceased gradually, and by the time it was healed they disappeared totally. Epilepsy is therefore to be considered as a disease from absorption, and of the same nature with agues and intermittents. When a sufficient quantity of matter is absorbed, the nerves are stimulated into convulsions, and the efforts made in the fit discharge the overflow of matter, and after a sleep the patient recovers his usual health. If the ulcer be healed, or the obstruction removed, the offending matter will not be produced, its pernicious effects upon the nerves will not take place, and the fits will cease. Epilepsy of this kind certainly admits of cure, though it be by far the most frequent. Though then we can make little hand of the energy of the brain, or of the mystery of excitement and collapse, yet an ulcer may be healed, or an obstruction removed, and consequently the fits they occasion. The epilepsy is most frequent in families liable to the evil or scrophula, especially such of them as have

have escaped external ulcers. Running sores discharge that matter, which, if retained in the body, would produce epilepsy. The teeth cutting through the gums in young children occasion convulsions; these fits, however, almost always cease when the teeth come out. The irritation of the infectious poison in the small pox sometimes produces convulsions in the first fever, but these go off when the pocks appear. The fits occasioned by worms go off when the worms are destroyed, and their bites healed. Universal convulsions often take place from small wounds in the tendons, which happen in bleeding, in lacerations of nervous parts, and from all kinds of wounds, particularly from cutting off limbs. These facts demonstrate that convulsions do not proceed from causes produced by the nerves themselves, but from injuries inflicted upon the nerves by things foreign to them. The appearances of this disease greatly affect the bye-standers, and incline them very much to the marvellous. Even the learned have their heads turned by senseless theories, and hard long words, which, though pompous in sound, are without meaning.

Hence the disease has been ascribed to imaginary causes, and the cure has been looked for from means not more imaginary, than hurtful. Had not this been the case, they would not have expected the cure of this disease from things deleterious and poisonous, such as arsenic, zinc, copper, &c., which never can be either safe or good medicines. To the cure of this disease two things are necessary; to heal the ulcer, which takes in sweetening the juices, and preserving the strength, which much depends also upon the wholesomeness of the juices. Mercury has considerable healing power, but its debilitating effects render it improper in this disease. And in all the trials I have seen of it, I cannot say it ever did any good. The Antiarthritic Powder has been often tried, and in every instance with advantage. In every case in which it was applied, it seemed to want only perseverance to complete the cure. A long trial is certainly necessary, and it is much more difficult to obtain for it a proper trial than might be easily supposed. Sometimes sickness proceeds from ripening and discharging inward abscesses. A

physician

physician is called in, who banishes the powder, and orders opium. The epilepsy continues! Some lay it aside from mere fickleness; some because they have taken it a considerable time. Some are offended by the expence of it. The faculty discourage others by various ways; they seem determined that if they cannot cure the disease, no one else shall. I have succeeded perfectly only in one case; but some approached so near to a recovery, that nothing but perseverance was wanting to its accomplishment. In this disease it is to be taken from four to six times a day, keeping the bowels open with the pill. No danger can arise from the powder, as it always improves the general health, and may be continued without fear of ill consequences. I shall faithfully set down two cases; in the one the cure was near accomplished; in the other it was perfect.

A young gentleman, son to one of the most amiable, as well as wealthy families in this kingdom, was much afflicted with epilepsy. When I first saw him, he had laboured

laboured under the disease about two years, and was then about fifteen years of age. He had commonly five or six severe fits in the night and day. His intervals were not clear; his eyes and the muscles of his face were very frequently convulsed. He had lost his memory and recollection, and took little or no notice of what was said to him. He was tall and well shaped, but, upon a nice inspection, his right shoulder was drawn a little backward. He was the only one, of a very large family, who had any symptoms of the disease. The powder was administered with the greatest care. He had every advantage which wealth could furnish, or the most affectionate care produce. He took five or six doses of the powder every day, without any sensible operation. The only change I perceived was in the steadiness and slowness of his pulse, but his fits were not less frequent. At the end of three months, to my utter astonishment, he became in a great degree sick and feverish; he loathed all food; his pulse was near 200 in a minute, and his fits almost incessant. A surgeon, who had long attended him, was sent

to

to see him, and to assist me. Instead of imputing his severe illness to the powder as I expected, he said it was caused by the sun, which at that time had attained his greatest altitude. This account seemed to satisfy every one but myself. I believed that the powder had brought the causes of his disease to a great crisis, and that he would either die, or be cured of his epilepsy. I endeavoured to persuade his friends that either change would be advantageous.

In about the eighth or ninth day, a most violent purging came on, it was of a dark yellow colour, the smell putrid and offensive. The surgeon would not listen to my opinion, but said it arose from a collection of fæces in the duodenum. I could see no reason to be of his opinion, as the bowels had been kept perfectly free. The very cadaverous smell pointed out the rotten state of the large bowels, and though his pulse became a little better, and his purging also, still I laboured under great anxiety. I feared that the number, and depth of his ulcers and abscesses

were

were such that they could not be healed. That more of the faculty would be called in, who would order opium, and sleep him out of the world. I esteemed it unfortunate that I had seen him at all, still more so, that I had ordered him the powder, as he must die, and subject me to the censure both of knaves and fools. Every morning I expected to find him dead. One morning as I approached the house, I perceived the window of his bed bed-chamber drawn up, I imagining he was dead, ran up stairs in great haste to see, but upon entering I found the bed empty. Upon turning round to find some of the servants, he bounced out from behind a door, where he had hid to surprize me. I was surprized indeed, when I found he had had no fit from my leaving him the day before. That his fever and purging were gone, but his memory and recollection returned, and for the first time he held with me a sensible conversation. I now considered his cure a certainty, I experienced great pleasure at the thoughts of adding to the happiness of a most worthy family, and promised myself at least credit, if not emolument

ment, from so happy an event. His health continued still to improve, and his fits and spasms totally disappeared.

Some time after, being invited to dinner by his father at his country-seat, I went early to have some conversation with my patient. We walked together through the improvements for some time, he was quite sensible, and had been without any fit for seven or eight weeks. After dinner he came to take leave of his father, as he was going to a boarding-school at some distance. Most of the company had seen him in his former deplorable state, they were therefore much surprized at the change which now appeared. Some enquiries were made how this great change had been brought about? My friend the surgeon, who was one of the company, seemed anxious to stop such enquiries by observing, " It is only an effort of nature." This he pronounced with some zeal two or three times. I was just about to reply, when my patient's brother took him up with great propriety by saying, " You sir, call this change

in my brother an effort of nature, and no doubt so it is; but you attended him a long time, and no change for the better happened. It is strange, nature should have made no effort, till he had taken this powder?

When we went to drink tea and coffee, the father of my patient brought the surgeon to me, and said he wanted much to be satisfied whether his son's severe illness, and the great change for the better that followed were the effects of the powder. I told him it would admit of no doubt, that the powder was the cause of both, but I had not then time to enter fully into the explanation, as I was obliged to return to town, but would satisfy him the first opportunity. But the surgeon called out aloud, with great emphasis, it was the cause of neither, the change was an effort of nature, and his advice was, to leave him to nature. The family seemed to acquiesce in the surgeon's opinion, who was an old acquaintance. And his opinion, delivered with much more confidence than I thought would have become me, though nature was so much in my favour

vour, prevailed. The powder was unfortunately discontinued. His health, notwithstanding, remained for near two years pretty good, when his epilepsy began to return, and encreased till it was as bad as before. The surgeon tried if nature would be more propitious: she was as unkind as at first, making no effort in his favour, and the young gentleman died. The surgeon told me he opened his head, and found a large stone in some part of his brain. I had never heard before of sand or stones formed in the brain, and apprehended it to be an excuse for nature, for being so very obstinate as not to make one effort in his favour.

A lady between twenty and thirty had been troubled with stomach complaints attended with wind, and some hysteric symptoms. After using several remedies with no benefit, she was advised to try the Bath waters. While using these waters, she was seized with epilepsy. Her fits were very violent, and returned at the same hour each day, with remarkable exactness. For several years her fits began at nine

nine o'clock in the evening, and continued with scarce any intermission for five hours. She then fell asleep till eight or nine in the morning, and awoke in her usual health, and continued so through the day. Her relish of animal food was as great as usual, yet she had no sooner swallowed it, than it was vomited up again. She had consulted physicians in England, and had used prescriptions here, till it was thought vain to persist any longer. This was her situation when she began the use of the powder. She soon took five or six doses in the day, without any sensible operation, but her health and spirits seemed sensibly to improve. Her fits returned at the usual hour with nearly the same violence, but gradually diminished as to duration, so that towards the end of the fourth month, they did not continue more than three hours. Her friends entertained great hopes, and I was of opinion that the disease would go off gradually without coming to any crisis; but in this I was mistaken, for about the end of the sixth month, I was called to see her, and informed

formed she was taken suddenly ill and was confined to bed. She had vomited once or twice, and purged the whole night; her pulse was quick, and her voice was lost, so as scarce to be heard. I advised perseverance in the powder, and in a few days her fever and purging went off, her voice returned, and so happy a change in her great disease took place, that she had only one fit each night of about half an hour's continuance. In the course of three or four months more she had two slight attacks of purging: and about the end of the last one, her fits totally ceased, and have not since returned. Her memory and recollection were completely restored. Some time after her recovery, she was married, and becoming a widow, she has, I hear, been lately married to a second husband.

Palsy.

This is ranked among nervous diseases, because the nerves seem peculiarly concerned, and are incapable of producing their usual effects

fects. Other nervous diseases have their seat principally in the abdomen and bowels contained in it; but the palsy has its seat in the brain, and other origin of the nerves. The nerves extending to the parts of voluntary motion proceed from the brain, but the manner in which the brain acts upon the nerves, when they produce motion is unknown. The beginning of palsey is attended generally with a fit much like apoplexy. There is frequently a loss of sense, as well as motion, and upon a sort of recovery, there is found either a total, or partial deprivation of the power of motion in the external parts of the body. Generally there is the loss of the power of moving the muscles of one side, and then the disease is called hemiplegia. Upon dissection there is found sometimes an obstruction or lump in the brain, sometimes a flux either of blood or serum upon the brain or some part of it. These are the visible causes of this very awful failure of the brain and nerves, in this very hopeless disease. The analogy between this and other diseases is very striking. There is an obstruc-

tion

tion or sore in the brain, and the existence of the sore implies the disposition in the blood and juices to produce it. The obstruction or lump is easily enough reconciled to this doctrine. But it may be objected, that the compression of the brain, by an effusion of blood or serum, might happen by the exhelant vessels, and without any rupture of any vessel. But surely this discharge does not happen in healthy people. It is therefore a topical disease, and proceeds most frequently from the laceration of some of the containing vessels. This is said to proceed from too great fulness of blood, but as the disease takes place most frequently in the decline of life, it is more likely that this effusion happens more from the diseased, and acrid state of the blood, corroding the containing vessels, than from any excess in its quantity, as then the disease would be most frequent in the prime of life. But from whatever cause this effusion upon the brain happens, if it does not very soon extinguish life, as is the case in the apoplexy, a sore or abscess must be formed, as this is

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the well known consequence of extravasated fluid becoming stagnant in any part of the body. From the difficulty of discharging matter from the brain, all sores and obstructions in it, become more dangerous than any where else.

Opening the obstructions of the brain, stopping the effusion of blood and serum upon it, removing what is already upon it, and healing whatever sore they may have occasioned are essential requisites to the cure of this disease. The short view here given of this disease, which is founded upon clear and undoubted evidence is sufficient to demonstrate the very great impropriety of the medicines generally used in it. These are stimulants, and strengtheners of all kinds. But how can applications to the extremities of the nerves, with a view of stimulating, heal the brain in the state above described? Can whipping with nettles, electricity, rubbing with mustard or salt, or warm bathing answer this purpose? Nor can essences or drops, or tonics, such as bark or asafœtida answer any valuable pur-

pose

pose. Blistering seems to promise relief, from the discharge of serum it occasions, yet there is danger of its encreasing the flux of blood and serum upon the brain. Aloetic purges seem proper, from their known effect of relieving the head. Bleeding as near the head as possible would seem to promise some advantage, at least when the brain is compressed.

In people far advanced in life, cures of palsy cannot frequently occur, and therefore it would perhaps be better that the powder should not be given in such cases. It would not always, nor perhaps frequently, in such circumstance succeed. And as, for obvious reasons, a great cry is raised wherever the least failure happens, without the smallest regard to truth or justice, not to speak of candour, great numbers might be prevented from taking it in other cases, with whom it would have the most happy success. But, though little in such cases can be done in effecting a cure, much may be done by way of prevention. This disease, though it is said to be sudden, for the most part gives long warning of its approach.

proach. Dull pains, and frequent giddiness are felt in the head; numbness and pricking pains are complained of in the extremities, and different parts of the body. The obstruction is then forming in the brain, or the fluid is collecting, which is afterwards to compress the brain, and extinguish life. Blistering, bark, nettles, cold bathing, are then recommended, but without reason, and without use. But if at this time the powder was taken, as recommended in the gout, assisted with the opening pill, this disease would be frequently prevented, and a more comfortable evening of life enjoyed than would otherwise take place. But this could be expected only by the temperate. Flesh-meat suppers must be avoided; the feet and legs must be kept warm, and the neck loose and free, particularly at night; no pin or fastening must be used in the neck of the shirt.

But though I can boast of little success in the violent attacks of palsy in very advanced age, the case is different in the young. Some, who have been seized with palsy in an early period,

period, have found such benefit from the powder, as has not been equalled by any other application. Though I do not believe that it will always succeed, even with the young, yet it has shewn such powers in this disease, as to entitle it fully to a trial. And if assisted by temperance, and regularity of conduct, this disease might cease to be considered incurable in early life. The authentic history of two cases, which came under my particular observation, will best illustrate this.

A married lady, about forty years of age, was attacked by palsy. She had lost the use of both hands and both feet, and was obliged to be turned in sheets. After trying for a long time the usual medicines without any advantage, I was applied to. Her friends were fully sensible of her danger and hopeless state, but were willing to do whatever I would recommend. She immediately began the use of the powder in the usual way; it had no sensible operation, but her appetite and spirits soon began to improve. After some time she recovered the use of her hands, and could reach for drink, and help herself in several respects.

In

In about three months she could sit up, and soon after, upon being helped, she found she could use her feet a little. A spring-board was provided, and she exercised upon it for several hours in the day. She so far recovered, that, with very little help, she could walk several times across the floor, and went out some days in fine weather. We all entertained the highest hopes of a complete recovery. This was damped in me, by her shewing me a small ulcer, which, she said, she thought not worth mentioning, under the collar-bone or claviele. It had no very bad appearance outwardly; and, as I conceived her palsy had arisen from ulcers of the same kind at the origin of the nerves, I entertained hope, that, if it had not penetrated into the lungs, or cavity of the body, it might be healed. Upon examining it carefully, I perceived that some of the breath came through that way; this encreased my fears, though her health continued to improve. After recovering much from her palsy, a severe frosty season came on, during which she got cold, and an inflammation of the lungs put a period to her life.

I happened

I happened to be called in to see the son of a citizen, who was afflicted with sore eyes, and, upon entering a back parlour, perceived a child lying on a pallet near the fire, and, upon asking if that was the child I was to cure, was answered in the negative. I however enquired into her case. She was about six or seven years of age; had lost the use of her hands and other limbs, and even of her tongue. She had a dry scaly eruption on her head, and back part of her neck. I enquired why some attention was not paid to her, and was informed that a physician had attended her a long time, but had pronounced her incurable, and discontinued his visits. They expected her death every day, and, as she was paralytic, she could not recover. They were, however, persuaded to make trial of the powder, and, as the case seemed to me interesting, no pains were spared to give it a proper trial. In a few days there were favourable symptoms, and in about four weeks she began to recover the use of her feet and hands. In about two months she was able to walk about, and was able to speak, and in a few months she

she became perfectly healthy, and has continued so ever since. She was restored to health as soon as her brother recovered from his sore eyes, and continues the most healthy of all the children. The eruption on her head and neck healed gradually as her palsy went off, and entirely disappeared when her recovery from palsy was perfected. I am of opinion her palsy was occasioned by a humour of the same kind affecting the brain, and that the stimulating medicines, supposed to be useful in the palsy, had greatly injured her.

Apoplexy is a disease very similar to palsy, and has its seat in the head. It is caused by obstructions of the brain, or by an effusion of blood or lymph compressing the brain. There are some recoveries from it, but the second or third fit generally proves fatal. People above sixty years of age are most liable to it, which makes it probable that the effusion of blood upon the brain does not so much arise from the quantity as the quality. The sharpness of the blood corrodes the containing vessels. Bleeding, clysters and purges of aloes, seem the best

best remedies in the fits of apoplexy. I never had an opportunity of trying the powder in this disease, but, as a preventative of it, much may be expected from its use. By sweetening the blood, it prevents obstruction, and also the rupture of the blood-vessels, and renders the internal parts of the body sound. People, who wish to avoid this fatal disease, ought to abstain from suppers, and all high seasoned meats, to shun violent passions and violent exercise, and to study temperance and moderation in all things.

Scurvy.

This disease is easily known, but difficult to be cured. It is attended with listlessness and weariness, weakness, and low spirits; the feet and legs swell; the gums also swell, and become rotten, and bleed on the slightest hurt. There is frequently, but not always, scaly eruptions and blotches in different parts of the body, and also large foul ulcers in the legs, of a putrid smell; the breath is also stinking. Seafaring people, when long at sea, are very subject

subject to this disease. This probably does not proceed from any unwholesomeness in the sea air, but from want of exercise, damp clothes, want of fresh water, fresh vegetables, and fresh meat. For preserving the health of this valuable class of men, they ought to be provided with all sorts of vegetables, that will keep at sea, in great plenty, such as potatoes, cabbages, gooseberries, lemons, and particularly malt, the fresh infusion of which seems to possess the qualities of young vegetables. Keeping their clothes and beds as much as possible dry, and free from damp, and taking every opportunity of getting fresh water and fresh food, particularly vegetables, would render seamen as healthy as any others. The land, with its freshness in all things, is the certain cure for this disorder; but this is so well known, that little need be said of it here. People confined in besieged cities, or in prisons, are subject to a disease, very similar, if not altogether the same with the sea scurvy.

The scurvy contracted on land does not admit of any remedy either so speedy or so cer-

tain

tain as the sea scurvy. It commonly terminates in dropsy, dysentery, diarrhœa, or mortification. The patient is generally of a peevish, discontented, morose, and fickle disposition, so that he can hardly be prevailed on to pursue proper methods of cure, and therefore falls a victim for the most part to his disease. He is very apt to have recourse to drams and cordials for relief, which, though they cheer him for the moment, only hasten his fate, and render it more inevitable. For curing this disease, a total abstinence from all salted and dried meats is absolutely necessary. The food should be sweet well raised bread, with milk, and fresh vegetables of all sorts. Malt liquors, with punch and wine, may be sparingly used. Wet and damp must be carefully avoided, and as much exercise taken as can be borne without fatigue. If, with this regimen, the powder be taken every three hours, and the bowels kept sufficiently free, if they be not so, the gums will soon begin to heal, the breath will become sweet, the scaly eruptions will disappear, the swellings will be removed, and the ulcers in the legs healed. Nothing can more

fully demonstrate the power of the medicine over the scorbutic humour, than its so speedily removing all the bad smells with which this disease is usually attended, which can only be done by correcting the depraved and putrid humours. When the ulcers and sores are very painful, and filled with what is called fungous or proud flesh, it will in a very short time remove the pain, dissolve the fungous flesh, and cover the sores with thick soft matter. The time necessary for the complete healing of those sores will be shorter in the young than the old, but not more certain, and ease and relief will soon be experienced by both.

Where there are sores and ulcers on the outside of the body, the effects of the powder will be certainly known. And it is to its effects in those sores that the appeal is made respecting its healing power in the great variety of diseases in which it is recommended, and in which it is known to be a specific.

Pimples,

Pimples, or Tetters.

These appear frequently upon the face, and particularly in people of florid or high complexions. Sometimes they are accompanied with redness of the nose, and sore eyes; this, however, is not always the case. They frequently proceed from drinking ardent spirits, but we are not to think they always do so. They are generally attended with flushings, and considerable uneasiness. Frequently there is wind in the stomach, and slight head-aches. These are considered by many as a mere disease of the skin, and of the skin of the face in particular. They are, however, from a scorbutic taint in the juices, and the most mischievous consequences often arise from repelling them, or driving them back into the blood. As they greatly disguise a fine face, it is not wonderful that impatience should prevail respecting their banishment or cure, and that every thing promising a speedy cure should be eagerly embraced. Hence the extensive use of lotions, and outward applications; and

some are of that strength of constitution, that they do not for a long time perceive the pernicious effects of such things. The powder, taken inwardly, is the most safe and certain cure for these pimples. It no doubt requires some time, but then it makes ample amends by the improvement of the general health, removing the redness of the nose, and soreness of the eyes, and restoring the complexion to its original beauty. When the powder has been taken inwardly for some time, if the pimples and tetters still continue sore, a little of the powder may be applied to them outwardly, either rubbed on dry, or mixed with a little sweet hog's lard or suet. This will greatly hasten the cure, and the powder taken inwardly will prevent any bad effects from the outward application. The trial here recommended may be safely made; the effects must be visible; and, if a little patience be exercised till the powder has time to correct the juices, this will not be thought so trifling a piece of advice as it might appear at first view.—All salted and high seasoned meats, all spirits

spirits and cordials, are carefully to be avoided. Wine may be taken sparingly, diluted with water, and the diet ought not to be too low.

Scrophula, or Evil.

This disease is known by hard lumps or kernels, or tubercles, generally moveable, about the neck, and other parts of the body. The upper lip generally seems swelled. Sometimes the disease appears in the bones; they become enlarged and spongy; this enlargement takes place in a great number of the bones, particularly about the joints, sometimes in the fingers, the arms, the knees, and ancles. The skin retains its natural colour, and the swellings are, on this account, called white swellings. These hardened glands and enlarged bones have sores corresponding to them in the inward parts of the body, most frequently in the bowels of the abdomen, or lower cavity of the body. There are obstructions in the liver, and in the glands of the mesentery;* these are not only obstrueted,

* The glands through which the nourishment passes from the guts to the vessels containing chyle.

structed, but ulcerated. Though in a natural state these glands are scarcely visible to the naked eye, yet in those that have died of scrophula they appear like a grain of wheat cut in two, filled with matter, which, mixing with the nourishment arising from the food, falls into the blood, and consequently corrupts it, depriving the body of that wholesome supply it requires. This disease begins in the liver; the juices passing from it into the bowels, become corrupted; the lacteals are injured, and the mesenteric glands inflamed and ulcerated; hence the enlarged glands and bones, which constitute the outward and visible part of this disease. These lumps and swellings, after continuing for some time of a natural colour, become enflamed at top, and at last ooze out a quantity of undigested matter, without the least tendency to relieve the patient, or to heal; or, if one happens to heal, one or more rise up in its stead. All this time the patient undergoes the greatest pain and anguish, until the hectic fever, with night sweats, and wasting purgings, put a period to his life.

This

This disease has always been accounted incurable. The patient, however, is generally dosed with bark and opium; sometimes his swellings and lumps are poulticed, sometimes with bread and milk, sometimes carrots, and at other times hemlock, according as the fashion happens to be; and, when these fail, which they always do, the patient is sent to salt water, or some medicinal spring. Blisters and opium are the worst remedies used in this disease, because the first tortures the patient, and the last stupifies him, and destroys any little health he may have left.—Every one, who has seen his friend pass through all the stages of this disease, will bear ample testimony that it is not only incurable, but most miserable. It does not only terminate in death, but in death by torture. Ever since I perceived that the powder* was capable of curing this disease, I have paid to it the greatest attention. Many cases came under my care, and most of them of long standing, and already arrived at the last fatal period. I can do no service to mankind more important than to give a faithful relation of my experience in this disease.

* Antiarthritic Powder.

disease.—The disease is less or more difficult of cure, according to the duration of it. The abscesses of the liver seemed to stand much more in the way of a cure, than the external sores. I never found that any lump or hardened gland could be banished, without suppurating, and discharging matter. I never found any swelling or lump, externally suppurating and bursting, that was difficult to be cured, though this is contrary to the opinion of some physicians of great name. In most cases the cure was speedy, without any vomiting or purging, to indicate a discharge of matter from the liver. In some cases there was a vomiting, but chiefly a purging of matter, which, however, soon went off, and the patient was perfectly cured. In some cases, where purging came on, gentlemen of the faculty were called in, who forbid the use of the powder, and the patient was lost or disappointed. In some cases the patient, though deprived of the powder, retained the advantage he had got, and recovered. It was generally begun in the very last dregs of life, when the liver seemed to have arrived at that state described by writers, resembling the liver of a measly swine.

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In this disease the cure will be speedy and certain in all cases, if the powder be used near the beginning, this is proved by the clearest evidence.

In cases where it has continued long, the cure will be certain, if there be any considerable strength remaining, or if any considerable part of the liver be sound.

Even in the very last stages, it will abate the pain, and even perform a cure, if the liver be not almost entirely occupied and distended with puss or water.

The unfortunate cases I can recollect, where any thing like a proper trial of the medicine was submitted to, were very few; and when it is considered what great numbers have taken it, and recovered, the success must be looked upon as compleat, and nearly approaching to the utmost pitch of expectation. A great many cases in which the powder compleatly succeeded, might be set down here, and to them reference can be had by all who desire far-

ther satisfaction. I shall only add the first remarkable case of scrophula, in which the powder was tried, and as the gentleman is still living and well, reference can be had to him.

A dignified clergyman of the church of England, aged from thirty to forty, contracted a white swelling in one of his knees, he had also a swelling of the same kind on his back-bone near his loins, there were ulcers in the bladder, and urinary passages, so that his urine was continually mixed with large quantities of blood. He was in the habit of taking large quantities of laudanum, which abated his pains a little, but his miseries and pains were inconceivable. He had at the beginning of his disease visited England, and consulted the physicians, and by their advice had tried some of the most celebrated waters in that country. Continuing still to grow worse, he returned home, and after making trial of the prescriptions of some of the most fashionable physicians and surgeons here for some time, he was pronounced incurable. In this state of intolerable pain, without remedy except the delusive one of opium, and without

out hope exeept in death, he applied to me. He is nearly related to some of the first families both in England and here, and I was well aware of the importanee of the ease, either to exalt the medieine, or to sink it in oblivion, and prudence whispered, "have nothing to do with it." Nothing, however, but an absolute eertainty of enereasing his sufferings, which was hardly possible, eould have restrained me from attempting the relief of a most amiable and excellent man, in eircumstanees the most truly deplorable. He began the powder about the middle of April, in the year 1795, and soon encreased the quantity to six or seven doses in the day, it produced no sensible operation, but in a very short time his pain was less, the swelling in his knee and back-bone began to yield, and in about two months the discharge of blood entirely ceased. I then entertained hopes, but communicated them sparingly to my patient, as there appeared many difficulties still in the way. About this time, an eminent surgeon, who had attended him a long time, and was the last who gave him up, having been absent

sent in England with a great patient, returned and paid my patient a friendly visit. Upon examination of his case he pronounced there was a change for the better: he had not been at all informed of his using the powder, as this was kept a great secret. My patient called for his crutches, and making an effort, got up, and with their assistance moved across the floor. The surgeon clapped his hands for joy, and exclaimed, he never expected to see him do so much. "You see," said he, "what it is to take my advice; long ago I advised you to take no medicine, but leave it to nature, and now you see what nature has at last done for you. Go on as you are doing, and you will recover yet." My patient replied, that with the divine blessing he would go on as he was doing. He was as good as his word, going on steadily with the powder, diminishing the laudanum by degrees, until he laid it wholly aside. About the end of December, making in all about nine months, he was compleatly well, walking without pain or halt. He, however, still continued the powder, and has

has experienced no relapse, and is still in good health.

In scrophulous sores the powder takes off the pain very soon, produces thick, good matter, disposes them to heal, and, if continued, till dried up, and some little time after, entirely prevents any scar, which would be otherwise a great deformity. It also takes off all offensive smells from such sores, and from the bodies of such as are inclined to scrophula, the surest proof of its absolute power over the disease.

My compassion for the unhappy sufferers in this disease compels me to say, that whatever might be said for prescribing doubtful remedies for this cruel disease, when no certain one was known: now that this is no longer the case, there is no apology for such conduct. There is hardly any thing in this world more certain than a compleat cure of this disease, if the powder be properly taken at the first appearance of it. If it be then properly used, what scenes of torture and misery

misery will be avoided, and how many valuable lives will be preserved to society, and their very offspring secured from so dreadful a calamity. Instead of losing time with doubtful remedies till the disease becomes tormenting, and dangerous, it would be prudent, in all who know they are liable to contract this disease, to use the powder as a preventative. I have seen it tried as a preventative in people whose parents and friends have been martyrs to this disease, and have never known it to fail. If the powder was properly used as a preventative, the scrophula or evil would be probably banished from among men, would cease to be a disease, and would be known only from the books that describe it; like the Jewish leprosy, and some other diseases, which were formerly the greatest scourges of the human race.

Cancer.

This disease frequently begins and proceeds a considerable length, before it excites much uneasiness or alarm. This is a hard

lump

lump or tumor of the scirrhous kind in the breast, which encreases, gradually, becomes rough or uneven at top, and at length bursts, discharging a kind of fœtid, offensive matter. At other times there is a lump on the surface of the breast which is often a long time inactive, but at length shoots out roots at a distance, and becomes painful, and it is from the supposed resemblance of these roots to the claws of a crab, that this disease takes its name of cancer. This lump encreases gradually, and at last bursts, discharging an ichorous, undigested matter. Frequently the glands of the arm-pit of the same side are enlarged, and swelled, as the breast encreases in size, when a dropsy of the arm of the same side takes place. Frequently a small hard lump scarce perceivable, or like a small wart, produces a cancerous sore particularly on the nose and lips. The womb and some other parts of the body are sometimes the seats of cancer. The sore in this disease spreads itself rapidly, the flesh falls out as if mortified, the lips are often of a great height, the bottom of a disagreeable colour, and the smell extremely

extremely noisome to the patient and attendants.

This disease has always been considered as incurable, it has therefore been thought adviseable to cut out the lump, when so situated that the knife can be applied with safety. Hemlock has been recommended as of great efficacy in this disease. In some cases I have seen it tried; no good effect followed. I have heard from others that it did not answer their expectations. It would seem, therefore, most prudent to apply the knife where it can be done safely; and the sooner the lump is exterminated, the more likely it is to succeed. But I have seen some cases, where the lump was cut out, yet the sore still continued to advance, and great quantities of rotten flesh to fall out, and in one case I saw the cancer take place again in the same breast, out of which a lump had been cut a year or two before. Notwithstanding, the knife seems much preferable, where it can be applied to any kind of plaister or caustic. There are a great number of plaisters and outward applications

plications recommended in this disease, but I have not seen any effects from them superior to the effects of caustic.

From the great success of the Antiarthritic Powder in scrophula, many were induced to try it in cancer. As it cannot possibly do harm, but is always favourable to the general health, it is rather surprizing it has not been more frequently resorted to by people labouring under this most dreadful disease. However, such as made proper trial had no reason to repent their doing so. Taking off the offensive smell of the sore, and lessening the pain, were promising effects, which soon took place. The sore was covered with good matter; the swelling and high lips of the ulcer disappeared after some longer time, and the sore kindly healed up. Almost all the cases were of long standing, and even of open cancers. In some the lump had been cut out, but the sore did not heal, but eat away the parts, and spread itself to a great extent, so that none could be more unfavourable; and yet the

the sueeess, in all that were temperate, and had patienee to persevere, was eomplete.

A young lady had a eancer in her under lip, which had been treated by an eminent surgeon in Dublin. It had been eat with eaustic, and was beeome a very ill-eonditioned sore. After using the powder about eight months, it was so eompletely healed, that no mark could be perceived, nor was her lip in the least eontracted. She is now in very good health, and is one of the most beautiful ladies to be seen. Reference ean be had to her, or her friends, by any one desirous of farther satisfaction.

A lady upwards of sixty, of one of the first families in this country, had for many years been afflicted with cancer in her nose and upper lip. She had recourse to the powder, and the sore, though of great extent, has been healed.

A lady of family and fortune, having entered into the marriage state at an advaneed period of

of life, began to encrease in size some time after. This was supposed to arise from a cause common to her with other ladies in similar circumstances. Her encrease was gradual, and at length she became so big, that her lying-in was daily expected. A gentleman of eminence in the profession had been applied to, and had been in waiting for some time, to assist in easing her of her burthen. As matters, however, did not come to the desired period, a consultation of physicians was called, who pronounced her disease a cancer of the womb. The lady and her friends, perceiving danger, applied to me. I found that she had not only a swelling resembling pregnancy, but that her liver was also enlarged, and her general health much broken. She told me her mother had died of the same disease, and she expected nothing but death; she was however desirous to try the powder, and accordingly did make full trial of it. As the case was interesting, I attended her very carefully. She took the medicine four or five times a day. It operated with great power; very considerable discharges and evacuations took place, by which her swelling

swelling was greatly reduced; her strength, however, was on the encrease, her appetite was better, and her sleep more refreshing. In about nine months her swelling was all gone, and her health perfectly re-established. There are few people more healthy ever since.

A married lady of a very great family and fortune, aged from twenty to thirty, was seized with a cancer of the womb. She passed over into England, and remained two years in London, under the care of the most celebrated physician of that city. He at length pronounced her incurable, and advised her to return home. Passing through Dublin, she was induced to consult me. She was considerably swoln, was of a dark mohogany colour, though she has a good complexion, and was much emaciated. She immediately began a course of the powder; in about a week she got up to six or seven doses in the day. It had no sensible operation, except keeping her bowels sufficiently free. In about six weeks her colour was much improved, her appetite and spirits mended, her swelling declined very much;

much; and in four months, during which she staid in Dublin, she was completely out of danger. She then went home with her husband, well stocked with the powder, perfectly recovered her health, and has remained well ever since, though seven or eight years ago.

When taken early in the disease, the cure has been speedy and easy. When the lump has been cut out before it was taken, it has healed without leaving any mark. When taken whilst the disorder appeared in a hard lump in the breast, it has removed it by degrees, without pain or suppuration. When it appears in the form of a wart, which it is apt to do on the nose and lips, and sometimes on other places, these warts are apt to bleed. When this happens, a little powder, rubbed on dry, will have a very good effect. The second, or, at most, the third application, will take off the wart or warts, and heal up the place.

Gout,

Gout, Rheumatism, and Erysipelas, or Rose.

These disorders seem nearly allied, and may therefore be treated of together. The gout is a disease of the feet, frequently, at the same time, of the hands, and sometimes of both. It generally begins with sickness at stomach, with cold and hot fits resembling fever. To them succeed excruciating pains in the heart, and leaders of the foot, and in the great toe, frequently in both feet, and sometimes in one or both hands. This torture continues from twenty to thirty hours, when the feet and hands having swelled considerably, the pain abates, and gradually goes off entirely.

If the patient be costive, which is frequently the case, the opening pill ought to be given at bed time, and repeated every night till the bowels are opened. The powder must be taken, a dose every three hours. This will soon remove the sickness and fever; the gout will speedily be brought to the feet and hands. The fit may be sharp, but it will be of short duration;

duration; the joints will not be injured; the remission will be complete, and the general health greatly improved. Such patients as have been used to usquebaugh and cordials during fits of gout, must be a little indulged in them, and this medicine will render them less hurtful than before. However, if they wish to recover their health, they must lessen the quantity by degrees, and so entirely break off the habit. If the young or temperate are seized with gout, they ought to avoid drams at all times, to use wine sparingly, and to take the powder regularly, with the opening pill if necessary. This will not only speedily remove the present fit of the gout, but will greatly improve the general health; so that fits of gout will either not come on at all, or, if they do, they will be of short duration. The health will be much more steady and perfect than where much gout prevails.

In people advanced in years, who have had frequent fits of gout, and who have been accustomed to cordials and hot regimen, the gout is apt to go astray, as it is called. This occasions

occasions a variety of troublesome complaints, such as wind, wandering pains, low spirits, and giddiness. These complaints are found in the young also, who have a gouty humour floating in the blood, without regular fits of gout. These are mostly subject to costiveness; they ought therefore immediately to take the opening pill, and to repeat it as often as they may find occasion. The powder, in these cases, is the only medicine capable of restoring health. This will soon bring the gout to the feet. The fits will be smart, regular, and short, until the health so far improves, that fits of gout are not wanted. By observing this easy prescription, numbers of valuable lives have been saved, still greater numbers have been restored to society from long and painful confinement, and not a few have been enabled to enjoy the comforts of life, who had little before them but a prospect of hopeless misery and helplessness during life.

Rheumatism,

Rheumatism,

Has a near affinity to the gout, and is divided into the acute and chronic. The acute rheumatism is attended with much fever, hot and cold fits, followed by violent pain, mostly of the joints, which swell, and grow red and inflamed. This is not only a painful, but an obstinate, and often dangerous disease. In the young, bleeding is proper; but, whether this be done or not, the bowels should be opened with the pill, and kept so till the disease is removed. The powder is to be taken every two, or, at the most, three hours. The patient is to be kept warm in bed, which will bring on a gentle sweating, which must be kept up with bread tea, barley water, whey, and gruel, with the saline draught. Animal food of all kinds must be avoided; wine and all fermented liquors will be improper, and must be carefully avoided. If these few directions be adhered to, this disease will be removed speedily, and much more perfectly than by any other means.

The chronic rheumatism requires much the same treatment, and has nearly the same symptoms, only the pains are not so violent, nor the fever so high; it is however more obstinate and tedious, and frequently destroys the use of the limbs. Here the bowels must be kept open by the pill. The powder will require no other assistance, and, if duly persevered in, will certainly remove this terrible disease. Confinement will not be necessary here; it will be enough to avoid rain and wet feet. Fresh meat may be eat once a day. A little wine may be allowed mixed with water; good small beer will be very proper. Dried, salted, and savoury meats must be abstained from.

The Erysipelas or Rose is a disease very common and easily known. It begins with a sense of cold, and shivering; this is soon followed with great heat. There is commonly sickness and nausea, and violent pain. At length a swelling of a red colour takes place, from which it is called the *rose*. This swelling takes place commonly in the leg, sometimes

sometimes in the hand, or in the face, or some other part; when the fever goes off, the swelling also abates, but sometimes it partly remains in the part affected, though the fever and redness have gone off. At the next return of the fever, these parts are again affected with redness and pain. This disease is apt to return very frequently, so as to produce a great enlargement of the part principally affected. The leg, or arm, or face become ulcerated, an habitual fever is kept up, or a mortification comes on, and death ensues.

The inflammation attending, or rather constituting this disease, sometimes falls upon the brain or its membranes or both, when it becomes extremely dangerous, the patient dying in violent convulsions. When it falls upon the stomach or bowels, a mortification is apt to ensue, which is generally fatal. When it falls upon the lungs it constitutes a pleurisy, or peripneumony, which are very dangerous diseases. It is evidently a great misfortune to be liable to this disease, which

is always troubleseme and painful, and so frequently dangerous and fatal. The regular practice may mitigate in some cases, but does not pretend to cure it radically.

At the first onset of this disease during the cold fit, the bowels ought to be opened by the pill; the powder to be given at the same time, and repeated every second, or third hour. The pill ought to be repeated until it has compleatly opened the bowels. It will then be sufficient to give a dose of the powder every third, or second hour, and the pill when the costive state of the bowels requires it. In the violent state of the disease, all broth and meat should be avoided, and panado, or barley-gruel constitute the patient's food. The inflammatory stage of this disease is attended with great thirst, and plenty of tea, bread-tea, toast and water, or barley-water should be given. These with the above medicines will produce a plentiful perspiration, during which the patient should be kept warm in bed, and should be encouraged to use the above drink freely. The sickness, pain, and

fever

fever will soon subside, the appetite will return, and the patient be able to walk about.

If then, the powder be continued at the rate of three or four in the day, with the pill occasionally, the swelling will be entirely removed, and the disease so completely subdued, that it will not return. The inflammation or ulcers of the parts will be prevented, or if they be already formed, they will be completely healed. The longer this course is continued, the more the health will be confirmed, and the patient secured from the returns of the disease.

If the inflammation falls upon the brain, or the lungs, plentiful bleedings should be added to the above remedies, in the arm, in men, and in the feet in women, with scarifications and cuppings as near the place affected as possible. To this may be added blisters applied to the back, the legs, or even the head. The bleedings should take place as soon as possible, the bowels should be kept very open, and the powder freely given.

If

If the stomach and bowels be the seat of the disease, then, besides the pill and powder, the patient should be immediately bled; frequent elysters of chicken-broth, with sallad-oil should be administered. Cloths wrung out of warm water should be applied to the belly, or the patient may be put into a cask filled with moderately warm water above the stomach. Great pains should be taken to dry, and rub him well when he comes out. He ought then to be put into a well aired bed, and sweating encouraged, by giving the powder with the above mentioned diluting drinks. The injections ought to be continued frequently, so as to procure several stools in the course of the day. No time is to be lost to disperse the inflammation, before it begins to suppurate or mortify, which are extremely dangerous. The above course, if begun in time and duly pursued, will be the happy means, under God, not only of preventing much suffering, but of preserving many useful lives.

Gravel and Stone.

These are frequently found in the gall-bladder, but still more frequently in the kidnies and bladder of urine. The formation of those stones, like all the processes of nature is inexplicable. Physicians often write, and speak as if they were deeply in the secrets of nature, and ready qualified to explain the whole of her mysteries. A judicious reader however perceives nothing satisfactory. But though we know not how those stones are formed, or the causes of their production; we are certain they often exist, and occasion much pain and distress to the unhappy sufferer. We find also that the means used for his relief are mostly without advantage, and that they frequently encrease his misery, and even cut short the thread of life.

When the stones are confined to the kidnies there is pain in the back, about the region of the kidnies; a difficulty in passing water

water, with acute pain, especially when sand or bits of gravel are passed with it. When the stone descends into the bladder, it encreases in size, gives much pain by wounding the coats of the bladder: sometimes it stops up its mouth so that the water cannot pass, and often greatly injures the urinary passages, so that blood proceeds from them. For dissolving the stone in the bladder, various medicines have been recommended. Some of them have discovered much power when applied to the stone in a bottle, and could they have the same advantages in the body, they no doubt would produce the same effects. But when they are taken into the stomach, they come to the stone only by being mixed with great quantities of other matter, which must either entirely, or at least in a great degree prevent their operation. When applied by injection, they are too corrosive, and injure the passages, and even in that way they come at the stone mixed and dissolved in urine, so as to prevent their effects.

The

The operation for the stone is very dreadful, attended with much pain and danger, and though it sometimes succeeds, is not less frequently mortal. A medicine capable of curing this disease, or of preventing it, is very desirable. As we know not how this disease is produced, so it is vain to expect that we can be guided in finding out a cure by any sensible qualities. We can only know the cure by its actual effects on the disease in the human body, and not by any chemical appearances in a bottle or crucible. And it holds in this, as in all other diseases, that *nothing can be a good cure, that is unfriendly to the general health.*

That the powder acts as a preventative in this dreadful disease, is evident from this, that in all the great variety of people who have used it for any considerable time, I have not heard of one complaining of stone or gravel. This is at least a strong presumption of its salutary effects this way. It has been tried in cases of inflammation of the kidnies with remarkable success. It has been tried also in

ulcers of the bladder, with the like success. It will appear that it has produced the happiest effects in the gravel and stone, from the two following cases.

A gentleman between thirty and forty, of a slender make, and temperate habits of life, was seized with a fever, which proved tedious and dangerous, according to custom: and, though he recovered at length, so far as to be able to walk about, having been well plied with opium, bark and blisters, he complained much of low spirits, want of appetite, and general uneasiness and weakness. For these complaints he was induced to have recourse to the powder. At the first or second taking, a discharge of purulent matter took place, both upward and downward. This alarmed his wife and female friends to the utmost; he however insisted that I should be immediately called in. When I came, I saw clearly that the fever had not been cured; an abscess had broke in his liver, which must have been of great extent from the quantity it contained. They were all surprized when I insisted on his

continuing

continuing the powder. From the time I came the matter passed only downward. He was supported with some good claret, which was all the cordial allowed. The discharge began to abate, and in three days his bowels were perfectly regular: his anxiety, low spirits, want of appetite, and weakness were completely gone, and his health perfectly restored. Then, and not till then, was his fever cured, though his door had been blockaded with two or three professional carriages with gorgeous liveries, every day for two or three weeks before.—When he recovered, he told me that he had been long afflicted with the gravel, but that, during the purging, a great deal of sand and bits of stone had passed without any considerable pain; that the pain in his back, difficulty of making water, and, in short, all the symptoms of gravel, had entirely gone off. He added, I might recommend it as an easy and certain cure for the gravel.

A gentleman, aged about thirty, came to me to ask advice for a stone in the bladder. He had suffered excruciating pain, had discharged

charged blood often, and had at times an entire stoppage of the urinary discharge. A consultation of surgeons, after sounding him, pronounced the existence of a stone in the bladder, and advised him to undergo the operation for extracting it. An aunt of his, who had a high opinion of the powder, insisted upon his trying it previous to his undergoing the operation, which induced him to apply to me. I mentioned to him the foregoing case, and told him, that though it did not promise the solution of the stone in the bladder, yet it promised to have some power over it. At any rate the powder would improve his general health, and not only help him to bear the operation, but greatly promote his recovery from the wound. He began to try it, and I paid every attention to the trial. It produced no sensible operation. After using it two nights and days, he told me he had slept better, had less pain, and made water more freely. I made him set some of it by in a glass, and, to my entire satisfaction, found a great deal of sand at the bottom. This continued to encrease, and he complained of some pain in

passing

passing it; but the pain in his bladder, and sense of weight declined gradually, and in about two months the stone was gone, to the no small surprize of the surgeons, whose skill in operating was not wanted, and his health perfectly recovered.

Diabetes.

This is a disease which, though I have seen some people labouring under it, yet I never treated it with a view to a cure, nor have I ever heard that the powder was tried in it. Its chief and characteristic symptom is an excessive and wasting discharge of urine. This urine has the appearance of having honey mixed in it, and is said by the curious to be sweet to the taste. There is also a violent thirst attending it. But, as I am incapable of giving advice at present to those who unfortunately labour under this disease, must defer it till I am better informed, and know with more certainty the nature and cure of it.

DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

This beautiful part of the human species is subjected to the diseases incident to the other sex, and also to some, and those not a little painful and dangerous, that are peculiar to itself.—This sex is placed by the Creator in a very interesting situation. Upon it depends chiefly the continuance of the human species. All mankind are indebted to it for birth, for preservation, and nourishment in infancy. The constitution of their bodies, and the habits of their minds, are in a great measure formed for, and directed towards this end. This sex, therefore, is intimately connected with all that is pleasing and comfortable, useful or ornamental, in human life. Hence all civilized nations have agreed to treat women with a marked delicacy and respect; and every species of rudeness, and insult offered to them, is not only a mark of brutality, and barbarous manners, but is a crime against decency, and even the dignity of human nature itself.

With

With a view to their becoming mothers, a change takes place in women nearly connected with their health. This change does not take place in all at the same age. In some it happens earlier, in others later; but, unless it takes place before the age of seventeen, there is reason to apprehend the existence of bad health. About the time of its appearing the breasts begin to swell, which speaks the intention of the Creator that they should not only bring forth children, but nourish them in infancy. The time of the appearing of this change is an important period in the life of every woman, and requires great care and good management. She is then to be treated with great tenderness. Her mind ought to be soothed, and every thing harsh or frightful should be avoided. She ought to be cautious of getting cold; wet feet and wet clothes are dangerous: hard labour and fatigue are also dangerous, though gentle exercise be proper. Salted and high seasoned food, watching, and anxiety, are carefully to be avoided.

If

If this change does not take place at the usual age, or, having taken place, it stops, and is discontinued; it is fair to conclude that the health is bad, or in danger of becoming so. It is then usual to ask advice, and stimulating medicines are generally recommended. Aloes, assafœtida, vomits, bitters, and steel, are chiefly depended upon to promote this discharge. Nature frequently, by her own efforts, removes the obstructions which constitute this disease; and then, as in similar cases, whatever medicine was taken at the time gets the credit of the cure. But when the disease is of long standing, there is an obstruction or inflammation of the liver, or of the lungs, or some internal part found to take place. The juices are prepared to produce a sore, or there is a sore formed. The blood is no longer in its natural or wholesome state, but becomes acrid; and, instead of affording that salutary nourishment which the body requires, it injures the solids, and produces a sore. In this disease, as in all others, when the blood and juices are in fault, stimulating the solids can do little to improve the health. Stimulating medicines do much

much harm in those cases; they can neither prevent nor heal a sore. Hence the disappointment of those unfortunate patients who are left depending on such remedies. In all women labouring under obstructions, or morbidly deprived of the menstrual flux, the pulse will be found as quick, or nearly as quick, as in an acute fever. This clearly indicates the preparation of the juices to produce a sore. And are the remedies ordered in menstrual obstruction capable of changing them? No; they stimulate the solids, but do not sweeten, or but very little sweeten the fluids. Will aloes, assafœtida, bark, steel, bitters, or acids, either prevent a sore, or heal one? If not, how should they succeed in menstrual obstruction? The best illustration of this reasoning is the uniform and unexampled success of the Antiarthritic Powder in cases of this kind. The successful cases in which it has been tried would fill a volume. In the few cases where it did not perform a cure, the failure was owing to the whim or fickleness of the patient, who could be prevailed on to make but a trifling trial. And in cases where this

obstruction

obstruction is joined with tubercles, or ulcers in the lungs, which was the fact in every instance where a cure did not happen, nothing but persevering patience will succeed. Where the patient could be prevailed with to go on, there were few failures, even in the worst cases; but in recent cases the cure is speedy, as well as complete. All that is necessary is to open the bowels with one of the pills, taken at bed time, and repeated whenever the bowels require opening, and to take four or five doses of the powder in the day, using only fresh meat, with a little wine after dinner diluted with water, going early to bed, and rising early, and taking only gentle exercise. A cure, and speedy restoration to health, will be the certain consequence.

But a suppression of the monthly flux is not the only disease to which females are liable. This discharge is often too frequent, and excessive in quantity. When this is the case, there is a complaint of pain in the back and loins, head-ach, weakness, faintness, low spirits, and sometimes it terminates fatally. With respect

respect to the obstruction, as well as excess of the menses, a great many circumstances occur, which cannot be explained or accounted for. No satisfactory reason can be given why this disease happens only monthly, and not every week, or every two or three months. We might as well pretend to shew how the parts affected by this change are formed, as account for every thing connected with the change itself. Yet writers upon physic talk of this affair as if they knew all the secrets of it.

It is very certain that in the womb, and parts adjacent, there are vessels formed which are an evident apparatus for carrying on this discharge. But why it takes place at particular periods in preference to others, and not always, exceeds our comprehension, and is a demonstration of the existence of a providence. Why pregnancy puts an entire and immediate stop to this discharge is another mystery. This is said to be occasioned by the nourishment of the fœtus, but this is unsatisfactory, for though the fœtus in process of time requires considerable nourishment, yet this

this does not seem to be the case at first, and therefore this cannot be the cause of the immediate stop of the discharge. The want of the menstrual discharge, when occasioned by pregnancy, is not injurious to health; on the contrary, pregnancy is generally highly favourable to health. In like manner the breasts are an apparatus to secrete that wholesome juice called milk, for the nourishment of the child. The structure and vessels of the breasts are always the same, and yet it is only in case of pregnancy, and after the child is born, that milk is actually produced in them. Can any anatomist or physiologer give an intelligible or satisfactory account of this.

It is, however, a fact that in all females who are in good health, the menses take place at a certain age, and return every month, that they continue much about the same time, and discharge nearly the same quantity. It is also true that when this discharge does not take place at all, or having taken place, stops and does not return at the usual periods, except

cept obstructed by pregnancy, there is a want of health, and a diseased habit of the body existing. The seat of this disease is the womb, and parts adjacent. The too frequent and excessive discharge of the menses is a disease of the same parts, and therefore has an affinity with the other, though the symptoms are in some respects unlike.

This diseased state of the womb can proceed only from two causes: either hurts or injuries have produced an inflammation, obstruction or sore, or the blood and juices have become so depraved as to produce them, by their own action. The venereal disease often produces inflammation, obstruction, and sore in the womb, and is therefore frequently the cause of the suppression, and also of the too frequent and excessive discharge of the menses. This, then, may be in some measure considered as an external cause of these diseases. Blows and kicks, as well as excessive venery, may be considered as external causes of them; but by far the most frequent causes are the acrid and depraved state of

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the blood and juices, which producing a sore in the womb, prevents its natural functions in making that discharge at the proper periods which is so necessary to health, or in another state of the sore makes such discharges as are injurious and hurtful. The blood arrived at that degree of depravity that it produces inflammation, and sore in the womb, must obstruct those vessels through which the menstrual discharge proceeds, and occasion suppression of the menses; or having by its acrimony destroyed some parts of those small blood-vessels, opens up a way for its escape, which it often does in such quantity, as not only to occasion weakness, but even death.

The intention of pointing out the nature of this disease, is not to form a theory, upon which to build a particular practice for the cure of it, which is the usual method; but by shewing the analogy of diseases, refute that absurd observation, that a medicine good for every thing is good for nothing; and also to throw some light upon this very interesting part of natural history. If these diseases

proceed

proceed from venereal infection, they must be treated like the venereal disease. If they proceed from blows or hurts, the powder will effect the cure, and the cure will here be more speedy than when the diseases have been occasioned by the depraved state of the blood. But when they proceed from a depraved state of the blood and juices, the powder will also prove a pleasant and certain cure. It will be necessary to open the bowels either with the pill, or any other purgative, and to take the powder four or five times a day, living temperately, and using gentle exercise, and the health will be restored as by a charm. The powder rarely produces any sensible operation in these disorders, but it very soon shews its power over them. Even in scirrhous and cancerous obstructions of the womb it has not required many months to heal them. What wonder then, if, in the slighter diseases of the womb producing obstruction, or excess in the usual discharge, its happy effects should be soon apparent? Sallowness and dejection are soon succeeded by smiles and chearfulness. She who before excited only pity, is beheld

with

with pleasure, and communicates life and animation to every circle. Numbers restored to health and to their friends and society, and become the happy mothers of healthy children are better than ten thousand speculative arguments to shew the afflicted what they are to expect from this medicine. And such evidence is ready to be produced to such as may desire farther satisfaction, as will be acknowledged fully sufficient even by the incredulous, and to disarm the rancour even of the most interested.

Discharges from the vagina are sometimes faulty in quality, as well as quantity. The disease is then called *the Whites*. This sometimes proceeds from venereal infection; and when this is the case the running is continual or nearly so, it is also sharp, occasioning smarting. It also grows continually worse, and produces other venereal symptoms. The discharge has also the appearance of matter, and will stain the linen. This must be treated like the venereal disease.

There

There is also a discharge resembling this from an ulcer or ulcers in the bladder, or neck of the bladder. When this is the case, the discharge will take place chiefly at the time of passing water. This will be cured by the powder, like other ulcers.

The disease properly called the whites may be distinguished from the above diseases by the few symptoms before mentioned. It is attended with pain in the back and loins, occasions great wasting and weakness. When it continues long, the feet swell, and other marks of decline and consumption are present. No disease is more dangerous, and therefore the most speedy attention ought to be paid to the removal of it. It is dangerous, and obstinate according to the time it has continued; which shews the danger of delay, and the necessity of speedy exertion. The course recommended for irregular and diseased menstruation will perfectly answer in this disease. The great difficulty is, to overcome the natural indolence and irresolusion of those who labour under it, and induce them to attend

to their health. Ladies labouring under this disease, have generally a sallow countenance, and a dead exhausted look. The powder will soon clear the complexion, give a bloom to the cheeks, and by filling their looks with vigour and animation, will convince all their acquaintances of the improvement of their health. The colour of the face, and the looks are the first effects of the powder. These are visible, and therefore ladies need not fear being deceived, or even kept in uncertainty respecting the benefits they are to derive from it. Some spend much money and pains in purchasing articles to improve their beauty, but this excels all external applications, as the reality excels the appearance, as the glow of health excels the tints of rouge; as a beautiful and healthful woman excels the artificial colourings of a painted doll.

By becoming mothers, women are subjected to a variety of diseases. Pregnancy is attended with sickness, nausea and vomiting, the best cure is to keep the bowels open. For this purpose the powder will generally be

be sufficient; if, however, it should not remove costiveness, it may be assisted with cream of tartar, a decoction of sena and prunes, or small quantities of the lenitive electuary. This will not only greatly improve the health, but effectually prevent that dreadful accident, miscarriage or abortion. Ladies who are subject to miscarriage are particularly called upon to use the powder during pregnancy, as in a variety of cases it has not failed in one.

A lady of little stature and delicate shape, had experienced four or five miscarriages, and in consequence had fallen into a rapid decline. She had been attended by a physician of some note, but perceiving that she was losing ground, and that the course prescribed would not do, she had recourse to the powder. In a short time it produced a considerable discharge of yellow and green stuff, remarkably sharp and acrid, both up and down. This, however, ceased in a few days, when we found her consumptive symptoms much abated, and her general health better. In a short time after, she became pregnant, and was prevailed on to continue the powder the whole time of preg-

tation. She had not the least threatening of miscarriage, had a very easy and happy time in child-birth, and the child, which was a boy, walked at nine months old. She has had several happy births since, is still in good health, and able to satisfy any one, who may desire farther information.

Women in labour are always objects of compassion, and require assistance; but to assist them with effect, judgment is necessary. The woman ought to make no exertion on pretence of hastening the birth, but is to be kept as quiet and easy as possible. She is to be patiently waited for, nor are drams and cordials to be given her, on pretence of supporting her: these will only inflamet he womb, and render the birth more difficult. But it is after the birth the greatest care is necessary, she is then liable to a variety of very dangerous diseases. Immediately after delivery a piece of flannel previously prepared with strings, should be drawn tight about her waste and belly, and left on for some time. The child should be put to her breast as soon as possible,

possible; or, if she does not nurse, her breasts should be sucked or drawn by some one else. Animal food should be carefully abstained from, and even wine should be used very sparingly.

The child-bed fever comes on about the third or fourth day, and seems to be occasioned by the injuries the womb and parts adjacent have received in delivery. Women in whom the liver is unsound seem most liable to this disease; but its dangerous and mortal effects arise chiefly from a mortification taking place some where, and most frequently about the womb. It is evident that keeping the bowels open with the opening pill, and taking the powder regularly four or five times a day, would prevent both the milk and puerperal fever, nor would the miliary fever be heard of. The pill should be given a short time after delivery, and repeated as often as may be necessary to keep the bowels perfectly free, and the powder given regularly four or five times in the day. The woman ought not to be hasty

in

in leaving her bed, nor should she leave her room and house till she be perfectly recovered.

Women seem universally to have been the practitioners of midwifry in ancient times. We have nò reason to believe that they were scientifically instructed in the art. Yet the world seems to have been very populous, from the vast armies, which, upon many occasions, contended for the dominion of it. This shews that nature, with very little help, is able to effect the birth, and that the natural or safe births are by far the most numerous. There are, however, some births, or labours, in which the life of both mother and child are in great danger, and one, or, perhaps, both of them, lost. In these happy islands, where life and property are peculiarly safe, it hath been thought improper to trust child-bed women in any other hands than such as have been properly instructed. Men-midwives are now very generally employed, not only by the great, but even the middle class, and not unfrequently by the poor themselves. This seems peculiarly proper in unnatural labours, where the child

does

does not come head foremost; where also the narrowness of the pelvis or passage gives reason to apprehend that the case will be laborious, or the birth difficult; where also certain circumstances, such as violent bleeding or flooding, makes a great, and often disagreeable effort necessary, to save the life of the mother. In all cases of this kind the very best male assistance is to be called in without loss of time. It is, however, but rarely that any thing of this kind occurs; and it is but in one, of many hundred cases, where more than common assistance is necessary. The directions given above, for the recovery of child-bed women, will be particularly necessary to such as have undergone a laborious birth. No time should be lost to open the bowels, if necessary, either with clyster, or the opening pill; the powder should be taken every three hours. This will prevent inflammation of the womb and parts adjacent, and, of course, the mortification which constitutes the mortal stages of the milk, and child-bed fevers.

Though it be best to err on the safe side, yet it is surely hard that women should be wholly

wholly excluded from the practice of midwifry. Being hurled from their proper sphere seems to have upon its face the marks of grievance, and is just cause of complaint. Women, indeed, seldom betook themselves to the practice of midwifry in consequence of any previous study or preparation, but from falling into poverty, and being armed with uncommon courage, and sometimes insensibility. The great fatigue, cold, and watching, attending their profession, induced them to have recourse to spirituous liquors and cordials, as necessary to keep them up, as they call it. Their ignorance rendered them superstitious, their practice and drunkenness hard hearted, and often stupid and incapable. To display their consequence, they commonly crowded the house with all the neighbouring women, when a scene of smoaking and drinking went forward, to the annoyance and neglect of the poor woman in labour, so that very tragical events sometimes followed.

Women seem, however, best adapted to the practice of midwifry, and it would be desire-

able,

able, for a variety of reasons, that it should remain in their hands. For this purpose some women, healthy, and of good understanding, should submit to that education which is necessary to fit them for this profession. They should be instructed in polite literature, and in science, so as not to fall into superstition and brutality, but support the dignity of their profession. They ought also to study anatomy, or at least those parts of it more immediately concerned in child-birth; such as the pelvis, or lower parts of the belly, as also the form of a child's head, and the easiest way of moving it through the bones. They ought also to be instructed in the best method of using instruments, such as that excellent one the forceps. They should not be ignorant of the best way of using even the crotchet, and blunt hook; for, though the cases occur but seldom where such instruments are necessary, and, when they do occur, the best male practitioners should be called, yet women ought to be instructed in the use of them, that, in case of necessity, they may not be at a loss, but do the best for the preservation of the mother.

The sex are not deficient in genius and capacity to fit them for the most difficult parts of this profession. They only want opportunities of instruction; and, if they attain to equal abilities with men, they ought to be equally rewarded. This would open up the road to fortune for women, to which they have an undoubted claim. Humanity and delicacy both plead for this; and, so soon as proper encouragement is held out, it is presumed industry and ability will not be wanting.

Barrenness.

This is commonly reckoned among the diseases of women, but perhaps improperly. There are some cases where barren women are remarkably healthy, and, when this is the case, we are not to suppose them labouring under any disease. If there was a disease in the case, the process of the Author of Nature, in producing the human species, is too little understood, to enable the most learned to prescribe any remedy.

When

When attended with bad health, particularly irregular menstruation, which is frequently the case, this is to be treated like the suppression or excess of the menses. Where there is a want of this discharge, or where there is an exceeding of it, barrenness is generally the consequence. The cure of this disease is therefore the only cure of barrenness, which the art of healing can pretend to.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Children are of all other creatures the most helpless. They are surrounded with wants and dangers; yet they can neither supply the one, nor guard against the other. The great Author of Nature has implanted the parental affections, as that protection and refuge, which the helplessness of children requires. Such is the power of those affections, that it is doubtful whether more children be lost by excessive care, or by negligence or inattention. Such is the attachment that takes place almost in every one

one who is about children, that, whenever the child seems to be uneasy, or in pain, they think something ought to be done immediately for its relief. And, as children cannot tell where their pain lies, the very officiousness of those, who would wish to help and relieve them, has often a contrary effect. It is therefore of great importance that this care should be properly directed, so as fully to effect the object of it. Squeezing the breasts of children, and rolling them up tight in long rollers, with a view of giving them a fine shape, should be avoided. Feeding them with butter and sugar, and cordials, is very improper. They ought to be put to the breast as soon as possible; this is generally salutary both to mother and child. Where this, however, cannot be done, the nearer the food of the child approaches to breast-milk the more proper it is, such as panado, with the addition of one-third cow's milk, but breast-milk should be procured for the child as soon as may be.

Children are early liable to a disease called the Thrush, or sore mouth. This consists of a number

a number of small ulcers in the mouth, and throat, and they are said sometimes to extend through the stomach, and even the guts. This disease is supposed to be occasioned by giving the child wine, or spirits, or cordials in its food, or otherwise, which used formerly to be much the custom, and is perhaps too much the case still. It is supposed by some to proceed from a venereal taint in the parents. It however seldom occurs where the child is very early put to the mother's breast, and is, among others, a powerful argument for mothers suckling their own children. Many remedies are recommended for this disease, such as magnesia alba, rhubarb, and gargles of different kinds; it however frequently proves fatal. The Antiarthritic Powder is the only cure. It is perfectly safe and happy in its effects. A fourth or fifth part of a dose for an adult should be given every three hours, in breast-milk or panado. It has every advantage of being easily taken, and perfectly efficacious. If the stomach be overloaded, it will perhaps vomit gently at the beginning; it will also open the bowels, which will greatly relieve the child.

A change

A change for the better will soon appear, and in a short time the ulcers in the mouth, &c. will be perfectly healed, and the child restored to good health.

The breakings out, and scabs, that take place upon children, are much of the same nature with the thrush, and are safely and speedily cured in the same manner; and the increased strength, and thriving of the child, will soon convince every one that the cure is most favourable to the vital principle.

Children are also liable to inflammation in the lungs, called by the common people the rising of the lights. This disease is very violent, and soon fatal. When it appears, no time is to be lost in beginning to give the child one-fourth of the dose for an adult, or grown person, of the powder every two hours. The nurse should also immediately take one of the opening pills, which should be repeated every night till it has fully opened the child's bowels. If a little blood be taken by a lancet, or a leech, it will be so much the better, but this should

should be done as near the beginning as possible. The powder should however be taken long after the fever and inflammation have subsided. The nurse should be kept to a vegetable diet, till the violence of the disease has subsided.

The Rickets.

Children under three years are most liable to this disease. Their flesh is perceived to be soft and flabby; upon search, their stomach and belly are found hard and large, the head is also found to be larger than natural; the chest is narrow, and knobs on the bones at the joints are perceivable. A variety of causes are assigned for this disease, but with no degree of certainty. In a numerous family, one child will be rickety, and all the rest healthy, which is a proof that the cause of this disease, as well as most others, is but little known. It is much more important to know the remedy; and I am happy in assuring the public that they have this in the Antiarthritic Powder. In all the vast numbers of children that have taken

taken it, I have not known one that became rickety; and in the great variety of rickety children who have taken it, I have not known one that did not recover, provided they began in any tolerable time. In this disease one-third of a dose is to be taken at first three or four times a day; and, after some time, one-half of a dose is to be taken three or four times a day; and, if necessary, the bowels are to be kept open by the one-half or the whole of an opening pill. The child should be kept from salted meats of all kinds; his bread should be sweet, and of good quality; fresh meats and fresh vegetables will be proper; wine may be given occasionally, but with a sparing hand. The eye of a mother is of great importance to superintend this course, as it requires great steadiness and perseverance, and the strictest attention to cleanliness and regularity. Milk, and even tea, will be found very proper in this disease.

A boy, the son of a respectable citizen of Dublin, became rickety. This happened, though he had been under the care of an aunt

aunt who lived on the sea-shore, and was every day, almost from his birth, bathed in the sea. At the age of six years, when I was called to see him, he could not stand alone. His head and belly were remarkably large, his legs crooked, and he had not got one tooth. A physician of eminence had pronounced his case hopeless. I chose to put him under the care of his mother, though she lived in rather a confined street, than under a nurse, though on the sea shore, because I knew she would be attentive, and give him the powder regularly. The one half of a dose of the powder was given three or four times a day, which produced a considerable discharge of yellow matter both upward and downward. Every day he discharged more or less of this matter, and yet he was so far from being weakened, that in about six weeks he could stand up, and even walk by the chairs. He then took a whole dose three or four times a day, and in about three months the powder ceased to have any sensible operation, and he was able to walk, and even to run about. He began to encrease in size as well as strength, and gradually to improve.

At

At the end of three years, all of which time he spent in the city, he was perfectly recovered and healthy. His head and belly became of a natural zize, the lumps went off his bones, his legs and knees became sufficiently straight. He is now a healthy, well proportioned lad, and rather handsome. Many similar cases might be described, which terminated happily. The most undoubted satisfaction can be given to all who may desire farther information.

Worms.

Worms are of three kinds, the tænia, or tape worm, the teres or round and long worm, and the ascarides, or round and short worm. These are most frequently found in children, but grown people are often afflicted with them, They occasion squeamishness, vomiting, a disagreeable breath, gripes, looseness, swellings of the belly, swoonings, loathing of food, and at other times a voracious appetite, a dry cough, convulsions, epileptic fits, and sometimes a privation of speech. These worms have been

been known to perforate the intestines, and get into the cavity of the belly. These symptoms are seldom all found together, but one or more gives a sufficient ground of suspicion, and upon attending, some will be found to have passed off by stool.

Much has been written about worms, which makes it less necessary to be prolix here. Worms are seldom an original disease, but are the effects of some disease existing in the body. Putrid substances, and particularly animal substances, seem best adapted to the reception and hatching the eggs that produce them. If the stomach and bowels be healthy and in a sound state, and if the liver and the other bowels which empty their secretions and juices into the stomach, be sound, so that the contents of the stomach are sweet and such as they ought to be, worms will not be produced, nor could they live in such a stomach.

The medicines recommended for worms, either do possess, or are supposed to possess the power of destroying them. They consist

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of strong purges, mercurials, and bitters, sulphur, salt, and tin are much celebrated. These may destroy worms, but have little or no power to restore the stomach and bowels to their proper functions. If they be continued sufficiently long to destroy the worms, they will debilitate the stomach and injure the general health, so that the worms will return in greater numbers than before. All the medicines sold under the name of worm medicines, contain as their principal ingredient either mercury or tin, and are therefore to be used with extreme caution.

The best course I have ever seen for worms is to begin with one of the opening pills at bed time, and to repeat it every night, till a brisk purging comes on, giving at the same time the powder either in half or whole doses, according to the age of the child, and to the printed directions. The worms will soon be discharged in great numbers, the bowels will at the same time be healed and restored to their proper functions, and a final period be put to the disease of worms, with all its strange

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and unaccountable symptoms, and the patient restored to compleat health. Numbers of children have been cured perfectly in this way. It has been tried also with grown people, one in particular who had bafled the skill of the greatest physicians, and had tried sea-water, and Harrowgate water without benefit, whose worms were exactly like leeches, which he passed in numbers, and which occasioned discharges of blood from their bites, was perfectly healed by the above course. Another gentleman, given over by the physicians with an ulcer in his bladder, and a continual gnawing in his bones by long taking mercury, which was called an irregular gout, was perfectly cured by the above course. Towards the end of the cure he passed a tape worm of a great length, though it had not been suspected till then that he had any worms. He has continued ever since in good health, though he was so far reduced as not to be able to turn himself in bed.

Teething, though itself a natural process, is sometimes productive of disease. We know

nothing

nothing of the plan, or procedure of nature in the production of teeth. I have been amazed that they cut through the gum which is a nervous part, with so little inconvenience in general. However their coming through the gums sometimes occasions fever, startings and convulsions. When the powder has been given to children to keep their bowels in good order, and to correct those complaints they are liable to, I have always seen the teeth produced without trouble, and where fever and nervous symptoms appear, it is the best medicine. It is to be taken in doses proportioned to the age of the child in a little breast milk, or any other drink the child may be using. If the child be costive the nurse ought to take one of the opening pills at bed time, and repeat it each night, till it answers the purpose. The nurse ought also to use light, nourishing food.*

Sore

* For a child, the dose for an adult or grown person should be divided; for an infant under a year the one fifth or fourth, for one of two years, the third; for one of four or five years, the one half, and for one of eight and upwards, though it is best to begin with the half, yet it may soon be increased to a whole dose.

Sore Eyes.

The inflammation of the eye, which is called ophthalmia, is common to grown people as well as children, it is speedily cured by the powder taken according to the printed directions, keeping the bowels open with the opening pill, avoiding animal food and spirituous liquors. But there are sore eyes from a defluxion of sharp humours upon the eyes; these are found among grown people, but they are very frequent among children. These sore eyes are from a scorbutic taint, and are to be cured in the same way with other scorbutic disorders.

A great variety of eye-waters are recommended in this disease; every one boasts of the infallible efficacy of the one he recommends. The truth is, they are all of an acrid or corrosive quality, and are therefore all less or more hurtful and dangerous. It is obvious to common sense that every disease, brought

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on by the fault of the blood and juices, can be cured only by correcting these fluids. Sometimes nature cures this disease, and then whatever was last taken gets the credit of the cure.

Scorbutic sore eyes often prove very obstinate, and when this is the case, there is great danger of losing the sight. I have seen blistering, mercury, mineral waters, and sea-bathing, tried for a long time without benefit. The powder in this, as in all other cases of sore, is the true remedy. The bowels must be kept open, the food must be light and nourishing. Stupes of warm water with a little milk will be pleasant, and perhaps of some use.

A child, daughter to an eminent attorney in Dublin, about seven years of age, was attacked with sore eyes of the scorbutic kind. The smarting and pain were very acute, her eyes were at length entirely closed up, and the greatest apprehensions were entertained for the sight of them. She was put under the care of an eminent physician, who ordered

dered her head and neck to be blistered; this not availing, he ordered a course of mercury, which was continued and pushed far: no advantage seemed to arise from it. When I was called in, her eyes were entirely closed, a sharp humour dropped from them with great pain, her flesh had wasted, and her strength declined.

The powder was given according to the printed directions. The pain soon began to abate; the humour grew less sharp and of smaller quantity; and in no very long time she opened her eyes, and the sight was safe in both, though very weak. In three or four months she was perfectly cured, and has continued well ever since.

Measles

This is a disease to which children are particularly liable, it generally begins with sore eyes, with a dry short cough, and heat, fever and sickness. In two or three days the measles appear in a red eruption upon the

skin, this continues for two or three days, the sickness and cough go off, and the patient recovers. This is the course of the disease in its most favourable state. When a dose or two of cooling physic is generally sufficient to carry off the dregs of the disease.

When the disease is unfavourable there is a very hard dry cough, difficult breathing, inflammation of the lungs, and great anxiety. In this state of the disease it will be necessary to give, if the bowels be costive, the opening pill, the powder should be immediately administered. If the child be under three years, one fourth of a dose, if from three to six, one third, from six to nine, one half, and of above that a whole dose. There is, however, no danger from a little more or less. This quantity should be given every two or three hours. If the difficulty of breathing be very great, it will be proper to take away some blood, either with a lancet or leeches. It will sometimes, though but seldom, be necessary to repeat the bleeding at a short interval.

terval. Blisters are sometimes used, but I have perceived bleeding succeed better than blistering in the diseases of children.

But if, upon the first appearance of the disease, the bowels be opened with the pill, and the powder given four or five times a day, as directed above, and continued during the disease, it will not rise to any thing dangerous or alarming. In an experience of some extent, where the above method was pursued, I have not known either bleeding or blistering necessary, and the recovery has been very perfect.

The powder has been tried in some bad cases, where eminent physicians had ordered both bleeding and blistering, but which the parents would not submit to, and the recovery was speedy and perfect. In every stage of measles it is a medicine of the greatest value; and in those diseases of the lungs, and consumptions, which frequently follow the measles, it is superior to all others. See *Consumption.*

The Chin or Hooping Cough.

This is a disease easily known, and therefore little need be said in describing it. It is seldom fatal, except to children under a year old, and therefore, as the disease is infectious, great care should be taken to keep young children out of the way of infection. It is remarked that, though something may be done to prevent its becoming dangerous, it will hold on its course, and continue its accustomed period. When this disease becomes dangerous, it is from inflammation of the lungs. This is to be prevented like other inflammation, by opening the bowels, and giving the powder; if this be attended to, the inflammation will seldom happen. If however it be already begun, which is known by the fever, sickness, and difficult breathing, no time should be lost to open the bowels with the pill, and to administer the powder as in the measles. Blood should be taken as soon as possible, either with a lancet or leech; and frequent bleeding in this disease is found remarkably useful. Diluting drink,

drink, and a vegetable diet, which are proper in all stages of the disease, are particularly necessary in this dangerous stage of it. Some recommend change of air in this disease; but, of whatever use this might be to prevent the dangerous stages of it, when the inflammation of the lungs is present, it could hardly be tried with safety.

Small Pox.

This is a highly infectious disease, to which all people, who have not had it before, are liable. It occurs only once in the same person's lifetime; for though, upon being much exposed to infection, some small pox have appeared upon those who have had the disease, yet they have never produced much uneasiness, or been dangerous. It is hard to trace the origin of this disease; it is of long standing in Europe, though the spread of it was not perhaps formerly so extensive as at present. Old people have related that in their time great numbers never had the small pox, and, when it made its appearance, people fled from it as they would now from the pestilence.

In

In former times it was usual, when any person took the small pox, to keep him warm, to encourage perspiration; to give him hot medicines, with wine, and even spirits, to strike them out from his heart as it was called. The consequence of this treatment was a great mortality, and, of those who escaped, some lost one or both eyes, and were much disfigured. The illustrious Sydenham, that candid and accurate observer of the proceedings of nature, was the first to see and oppose this practice, and to recommend what is called the cool regimen. He advised bleeding and purging at the beginning of this disease, or during the first fever, as it is called; and instead of cordials to strike out the pustules, he prescribed thin diluting meat and drink, keeping the patient out of bed in the day, and his chamber as cool as usual. After the sixth or seventh day, when the pox were all out, if there was a great number of pustules, particularly upon the face, or if these pustules were confluent or run together, if the patient was restless, he gave from five to ten drops of laudanum, to

procure

procure sleep, and assist nature in swelling the parts, and ripening the pustules, and also wine mixed in the drink for the same purposes.

About the eleventh day, if a second fever seemed to come on, he ordered blisters, sometimes bleeding, and, at the end, some doses of gentle physic to carry off the dregs.

Though this treatment was a great improvement upon the old hot regimen, and considerably lessened the number of deaths, yet the small pox continued a most dreadful scourge. Great numbers lost their eye-sight, and were grievously disfigured, of those that recovered; and such was the mortality, that it threatened the extinction of the human race. Notwithstanding the violent opposition made to the plan of the illustrious Sydenham by ignorance, prejudice, and self-interest, the great enemies of all improvement, it must be considered highly important, and, had it been universally adopted, must no doubt have much diminished the pressure of this great calamity.

But

But as the small pox was perhaps first brought from the East, so the true remedy for it was brought from the same quarter. This is INOCULATION, brought into Europe by that illustrious and distinguished personage, Lady Mary Wortly Montague, an ornament to her sex, and even to human nature. The success of this discovery, so far superior to any thing known before, gave it a considerable spread, notwithstanding the most violent opposition from all quarters. The first inoculators were not sufficiently aware of the utility of the cool regimen in this disease; and though they did not give spirits and cordials to strike out the pocks, they kept their patients rolled up in flannel, confined in rooms greatly heated, frequently in bed. The consequence was, that, though the mortality was not near so great as in the best treated natural small pox, yet it was considerable, and every instance of its failure was exaggerated to the utmost by the enemies of the practice. However, since the adoption of the cool regimen, the success of inoculation has been so complete as almost to silence prejudice, and to demonstrate that this discovery

very saves more lives, than all the discoveries of physic put together.

There are various methods of communicating the infection. Some take the matter of a pustule upon the point of a lancet or of a needle, and pass it just under the upper skin, without drawing blood, or applying any dressing. Some think it best to make an incision, and, after putting in the infection, to apply some dressing. Others again take the matter upon a thread, and lay it upon the arm, keeping it fast by a bit of sticking-plaister. All those ways seem to succeed equally well. When the infection is given, the patient is kept to a vegetable diet. Every night, or every second night, from half a grain to two grains of calomel, according to the age of the patient, is taken at bed-time, and next day a stool or two is procured by a little rhubarb or senna, and cream of tartar, till the first fever begins, or the child sickens, as the nurses say. The mercury is then laid aside, but a stool or two is obtained all the time of the first fever by the aforesaid purgatives. It is necessary to

keep the bowels open till the pox are all out, which is about six days from the first sickening. The patient should be kept out of bed in the day time; he ought not, however, to be exposed to drafts of air by being put near an open window or door, nor ought he to be carried out in wet or very cold weather. Keeping him in his chamber is safest, nor ought it to be either hotter or colder than usual. He must abstain from broth and animal food of all kinds. If the patient be a sucking child, it will be sufficient for the nurse to take the physic, as this will sufficiently purge the child.

If this regimen be pursued for the first six days, the disease will be so slight, that no more is necessary than to keep the patient or the nurse from animal food. There will be scarce so many pustules as to satisfy every one that the infection had taken, and that the disease had been present.

If, however, a great number of pustules or black spots should come out, and these become confluent, the disease must be treated in the same

same way pointed out in the dangerous natural small pox. It is very rare that the disease becomes at all dangerous in the inoculated small pox. One case in a thousand of this kind is said to happen; and some have boasted that they have inoculated ten thousand, without the loss of a single patient. It would be prudent to give the Antiarthritick Powder for about one month before the inoculation, and for two months from the ninth or tenth day, not so much with a view of preventing the danger of the small pox, but for the benefit of the general health of the patient. Taking it for some time before the infection is given will remove any taint of scurvy existing in the blood and juices, and consequently fit the child for passing better through the disease; and taking it in the decline of the disease will carry out its dregs, with the mercury, and any unpleasant effects produced by it.

Every possible care should be taken to encourage the practice of inoculation. The wealthy should not only set the example in their own families, but assist and encourage their

their poor neighbours. There is no occasion for hospitals. Bringing a great number of children together makes their diseases more dangerous, particularly the small pox. The disease will be much more gentle under the care of their mothers, in their own cottage or room. Mothers ought to consider it their duty to inoculate their own children; it will succeed as well in their hands as in the hands of the greatest practitioners. Let them only lay aside their confidence in spirits, wine, and cordials. Let them keep the child cool during the first or eruptive fever, by gentle purgatives, diluting drink, and a total abstinence from animal food, both by the child and the nurse, and the business is done, the disease will be slight, and the recovery speedy and certain. If some women should submit to be educated for the practice of midwifry, they would be very proper for conducting inoculation. A lady first introduced the important means of preventing the dangerous small pox, and why should not ladies continue and spread its happy effects as far as possible? The clergy should encourage this practice, and even perform it themselves;

there

there can be no work more benevolent or interesting. Small funds should be raised, to give a premium of so much a piece, for such of the children of the poor as may be inoculated by the faculty, and attended during the sickness. The faculty ought to keep infection always by them, to inoculate such poor children as may be brought to them; and they ought to be attentive to shew the mother how she is to treat them, till they have passed the first or eruptive fever.

As to the cow pock, I have not had opportunities of seeing the effects of it, and therefore can give no opinion. It is however obvious that there has not been time to ascertain its efficacy in preventing the small pox. Nor is it certain that the disease from the cow pox is either safer or lighter than the inoculated pox. The same necessity of making experiments does not now exist, which existed at the introduction of inoculation. To discourage inoculation to give an opportunity of trying the cow pock, is depriving mankind of a certain benefit, for the sake of a very doubtful improvement.

improvement. To throw out objections against inoculation, unless they were extremely well founded, is a great injury to mankind.—The only thing advanced in favour of trying the cow pock, that has the appearance of an argument, is, that other diseases are communicated by the inoculation. It is said that the scrophula, or king's evil, is sometimes the effect of contagion given with the small pox. From a very close attention to inoculation for near forty years, I have not perceived the least shadow of reason for this opinion. I have always perceived that the slighter and less numerous the eruption of small pox was, the recovery was most speedy and perfect. I have seen the health of children much injured by the confluent pox in the natural way, but never by the inoculated pox. And I am convinced that the scrophula, so far from being spread, and made more frequent by inoculation, is rather prevented, as it would be much more likely to be found among the dregs of the confluent pox. The ulcer occasioned by the cow pox, and particularly the hardness and enlargement of the axillary glands, has a much

worse

worse appearance as to scrophula than any thing in inoculation. There is almost a certainty that the evil cannot be communicated by an incision, but if it could, inoculation could be but little affected. It would only require more care in taking infection; and surely it is no such hard matter to obtain infection, where there is not the least vestige of scrophula. Is it a matter of known and absolute certainty, that no dangerous diseases can be communicated by insertions of matter from cows and other inferior animals? Are there any diseases more dangerous than canine madness, or the bite of the rattle-snake? Yet these are from matter communicated or inserted from inferior animals. But instead of puzzling people with apprehensions without necessity, all who love their fellow-creatures, and desire to imitate their master by doing good, should encourage inoculation, not only by removing prejudices, but by putting the means as much as possible within the reach of the poor.

Venereal

Venereal Disease, commonly called Siphylis.

This disease is said to have been imported into Europe from America. It is communicated by infection only, and commonly from impure coition. It attacks the parts of generation, the very spring and source of the human race, and seems to threaten its extinction. Much has been said of the pernicious effects of an unnatural vice upon the health of mankind. There are so few attractions to this vice, it could scarce be supposed the cause of extensive ill health; if the boasted sale of a frivolous book did not induce a belief, that no inconsiderable numbers were conscious that their health might have suffered from this abominable practice. But whether this be real or imaginary, nothing can be more certain than the hurtful effects of the venereal disease.

The unhappy patient, though assisted by the most skilful practitioners, frequently dies in great agonies. Even where the disease does not prove immediately mortal, it destroys the

the constitution, and banishes all the comforts of life. The latent or open ulcer keeps alive an hectic fever. A wasting consumption undermines the vital powers, and prepares in the very flower of youth an untimely grave. His glands are eaten into by foul and stinking ulcers; his bones become spungy and rotten; his nose, mouth, gums and throat become cancerous, and till death hides him in the grave, he remains a hideous monument of the dreadful effects of vice and folly!

There would be much cause to congratulate mankind, if only a few now and then were liable to receive this dangerous infection. But such are the ardent desires of youth, the attractions of beauty, the delusions of flattery, that the most promising youth, and the most distinguished for ingenuity and candor, and talents are hurried over this precipice, and become the victims of a low sensuality.

When the infection is received, the patient is generally ignorant that so great an evil has befallen

befallen him. He continues for some days, and frequently for many days without any complaint; at length he becomes listless, his head aches, and his appetite declines. He begins to feel a frequent call to make water, which he passes with great pain, he perceives that it is high coloured and hot, and injures the tube it passes through.* He feels the sensation called cordee,† he has frequently painful erections, and sometimes the penis swells; at length a running from the urethra begins, at first resembling seed, but soon puts on the appearance of matter, and sometimes is even streaked with blood. This is the disease commonly called the *gonorrhæa*, and is perhaps the most frequent of all the venereal complaints.

Many physician of great name are of opinion that in the gonorrhœa, the venereal poison has not entered the blood. § That it is confined solely to the parts of

* Urethra.

† So called from its resembling the parts being tied with a cord.

‡ Dr. Foart Simmons, Dr. Schwediaver.

of generation through which the infection enters. I should not stay to examine this opinion, had it not a very dangerous influence upon practice, and did it not give rise to a treatment that has cut short a number of valuable lives, and heaped upon others a burthen of woes from which death only can release them.

The reason for supposing the gonorrhœa a topical disease is, that the parts of generation are chiefly the seat of it. But is not this the case in diseases where it is manifest the blood is first of all affected. In the small-pox, the place where the infection is introduced, is commonly loaded with pustules, and yet before any pustule appears, there is a fever of some days. In canine madness the wound heals as soon as any other wound, but when the poison has sufficiently infected the blood, the wound breaks out afresh, and the hydrophobia is present. In like manner the venereal poison having first of all entered the blood, by degrees prepares it and the other juices to produce a sore; and then the symptoms

toms of the gonorrhœa take place. It is no objection to this reasoning that no ulcers were found in the urethra of some that had died of this disease. The fact is, ulcers soon take place both in the neck of the bladder and urethra. All the parts are inflamed, which occasions the pain, and the running proceeds from an irritation of the parts, and of the seminal vessels, which is very much of the nature of a sore, and if it has not already produced an ulcer, if there be not skilful management it will not be long so.

Did the venereal infection act like boiling water, or hot iron or caustic, in producing a sore by immediate contact, there would be some colour for supposing that the disease existed without communication with the blood. But admitting the pains and symptoms of the venereal disease to be produced by the application of boiling water, yet how soon would the whole mass of blood be affected with a fever, and the disease, though apparently limited, would become the disease of the whole body.

No

No kind of pain is at first felt by the communication of the venereal disease, and did not the poison enter the blood, there would be an end of the matter. But having entered the blood, and prepared it to inflame the liver, and to produce inflammation and ulcers in the private parts, the heat of urine and its high colour, the pain and stricture take place.

Curing the gonorrhœa by restringent injections* arises from the supposition that the disease is confined to the parts of generation, and has no communication with the blood. As those injections speedily stop the running for a time, this method of cure is highly pleasing to patients, as the running is to them a very disagreeable symptom, and a speedy cure a thing highly to be desired. But a swelling in the groin, called buboe, or inflamed testicles, or ulcer in the neck of the bladder, producing suppression of urine, soon demonstrates the danger of this practice, and that the blood is

* Corrosive sublimate diluted in water, so as to cause a little smarting, but not violent. *Cullen.*

is deeply infected with the poison. Practitioners make a boast of curing the gonorrhœa without mercury: but by attempting this, they oblige their patient to use ten times more mercury than would have secured him at first from the greatest miseries, and besides make him a valetudinarian for life.

How infection operates upon the blood or any part of the body, in producing its effects, is as little known to the most learned theorist, as the most unlettered rustic. Where men's lives and health are at stake, experience and observation are to be trusted, not guess and conjecture; and surely all who unfortunately contract the gonorrhœa are deeply concerned to have it perfectly and solidly cured, otherwise the most dreadful consequences will ensue.

If the patient has reason to believe that venereal poison has been communicated to him, he ought not to wait for the coming on of the disease, but immediately apply mercury. The green ointment will answer best. This

to

to the amount of half a drachm, or the size of a garden pea, should be rubbed all over the glands, the frœnum, and all along the urethra. This should be continued for eight or ten days, avoiding wine and spirituous liquors, salted and high seasoned meats. If none of the symptoms mentioned above take place during that time, he may consider himself out of danger. He may then lay aside the mercury, and take a dose of salts, or any other cooling physic. If the Antiarthritic Powder be taken for about a fortnight, the effects of the mercury will be removed, and the health quite re-established.

This advice is not given from any hope of preventing the disease, but because, if infection be received, this treatment will render the disease much more mild, than it would be without it. If the disease comes on, which is known by the heat of urine, pain, and running, if there be no great swelling there need not be any intermission of the rubbing with the mercurial ointment.* But if the penis be much swelled

* From half a drachm to a drachm, or eighth of an ounce.

swelled and inflamed, and the water passes with great difficulty, the mercury may be omitted for a day or two: ten or twelve ounces of blood may be taken from the arm in men, and the foot in women. A dose of Glauber's salts should be given as soon as possible.* Stupes to the inflamed part, of warm water, or warm milk and water, must be frequently applied, or sitting over the steams of warm water; whilst animal food, wine, and spirituous liquors, are carefully abstained from. But the mercury must be soon resorted to again, and rubbed in every night with great care in the groins, and inside of the thighs. However, when the mouth grows sore, the mercury should be omitted till the soreness goes off, and then begun again. This course is to be continued till the heat of urine, pain, and running altogether disappear. The patient must abstain from all animal food, as well as wine and spirits, while any inflammation appears; but through the whole course he must abstain from salted and high seasoned meats. If the patient be correct in observing the above rules, avoiding

* One ounce and a half.

avoiding all fresh infection, the cure will proceed without any untoward symptoms, a host of the greatest miseries will be avoided; and, if he be moderately careful to avoid cold, keeping the bowels open with salts, he will not feel any of the worst complaints in the venereal disease.

But sometimes the venereal disease takes place not by gonorrhœa, but by a sore on the glans or nut, or on the prepuce, which is called a chancre. This is generally attended with swelling of the penis, and is apt to be followed with buboes and inflamed testicles. As this seems intimately connected with the lues, no time should be lost to apply the mercury, as directed for the gonorrhœa. Part should be rubbed upon the sore or chancre, and the remainder on the groins, and between the thighs. If the inflammation or swelling be considerable, bleeding* and purging, as

 directed

* If there be pains in the groins threatening bubo, or pain and swelling in the testicles, the bleeding should be repeated every day, for two or three days at least, to the amount of ten or twelve ounces, while the pain continues.

The

directed above, will be necessary, as likewise abstinence from animal food, wine, and spirits. The mercury must be steadily rubbed in till the chancre be healed, and all the soreness removed. When the patient is subject to rule, correct in using his medicines, living low while swelling and inflammation remain, and avoiding fresh infection and cold, this description of the venereal disease will be cured as easily, and generally sooner than the gonorrhœa.*

But when the patient neglects the use of mercury till the disease advances, or when he lives in his usual manner, neglecting purging, and eating and drinking to the full, troublesome complaints may soon be expected; such as

The bowels kept very open by a dose of salts every morning. If to this be added a total abstinence from animal food, wine, and spirits, rubbing in from half a drachm to a drachm of strong mercurial ointment, and taking four or five doses of the powder every day, the bubo will be prevented, the swelling of the testicles and penis will be removed, and some of the most troublesome, tedious, and dangerous complaints in the venereal disease will not take place.

* If fungous or proud flesh appears on the chancre, red precipitate may be applied in a dry powder.

as buboes, swelled testicles, suppressions of urine, enlargement of the glands of the joints, and sometimes of the bones, which become carious. The nose, and roof of the mouth, and gums, are corroded and destroyed; large eating ulcers are found in the throat; the whole body becomes rotten, and emits an odious steneh. Death soon gives leave to hide the hideous earcase in the earth.

If the above few and easy directions be punetually attended to, these dreadful evils may be certainly avoided. But if men will trust to restringent injections, delay or neglect the mereury, pursue their voluptuous and irregular eourses, one, or more, perhaps all the above miseries will most certainly take plaee. No age, strength, or vigour, will be found any seeurity.

But supposing men obstinate in their tempers, and persevering in their viees, we are not to abandon them, but in the worst circumstances do the best we can. Thus, if swelling in the groin, or buboe be present, the

patient ought to be bled, and purged as directed above, this should be repeated, with low diet to disperse the swelling if possible. The mercury is also to be rubbed on, in as large quantity as directed above, part of it upon the buboes. If persisting in this course the swelling still advances, it must be poulticed, and when soft, must be opened with a bit of caustic or a lancet. If it continues hard, and cannot be brought to a suppuration, a caustic should be applied to two or three places of it, and the poultice continued, the caustic ought to be repeated every night, or every second night, till a considerable discharge be produced, which must be kept up with the caustic till the lump be entirely gone.*

The obstinate swelled testicle is to be treated like the buboes, with the addition *of a truss to support* the scrotum.

The

* The caustic should be applied occasionally, as long as the patient can bear it, and when taken off, the part must be well rubbed with sallad oil before the application of the poultice, the caustic must be used at intervals, till the lump be all discharged.

The suppression of urine must be relieved after, with the above regimen, stupes and sitting over warm water have failed, by the introduction of the catheter to void the urine. The elastic gum catheter should be introduced and kept in, till the ulcers in the neck of the bladder, and urethra be compleatly healed. The mercurial ointment ought to be rubbed on as directed in the gonorrhœa, part of it particularly along the urethra.

The gleet is to be treated like the suppression of urine, only in place of the catheter a suppurating bougie should be introduced, and the powder regularly taken.

The inflamed penis, or phymosis as it is called, is to be treated like the buboe, except the caustic. If possible greater care must be taken to disperse this inflammation, as the part is liable to mortify, which occasions the destruction of the penis, and sometimes death.

If, however, the confirmed lues comes on, which is known by hard, moveable lumps under the skin, excrescenses in the bones, called

exostoses,

exostoses, scurf like honey-comb upon the skin in various places; creeping ulcers in the throat, palate or cartilage of the nose, running ulcers like the evil about the neck, joints, and various parts of the body; the remedy is mercury, and the best preparation of mercury is the ointment. This must be rubbed on between the thighs every night, to the quantity of a drachm, or eighth of an ounce. The patient must be confined to his chamber, but not constantly to bed, must not touch or swallow any thing cold, must use for diet gruel, stirabout* with small beer, flour pudding, with sometimes broth with a little chicken, or the lean parts of beef and mutton. Spirits are totally improper; wine may be given in small quantity largely diluted.

It was thought formerly that the pox could not be cured without salivation. This was the opinion of the great Sydenham, and that if any thing could be found that would salivate as effectually, as mercury, it would

* Pudding made of oatmeal.

would cure the pox as well. Experience has since shewn, that this opinion is not well founded, and that the pox, as well as all other venereal symptoms, are easier and more certainly cured, without pushing the mercury to salivation. It is enough to rub in the mercury till the mouth grows sore, it ought then to be laid aside for two or three days, till the mouth recovers somewhat, and then to be begun again, and so beginning and leaving off, till all symptoms of pox disappear. This plan has greatly the advantage over salivation. It more effectually destroys the poison, and as it does not so greatly flux the body and reduce the strength, it can be continued longer, and is not so apt to bring on a wasting consumption.

Thus have I endeavoured to make the venereal disease intelligible to every one that will pay attention, and to make the cure of it easy; so that people of plain sense may undertake and perfect it. I have added nothing to the advice of the most eminent practitioners, except beginning the use of mercury earlier

earlier, and to persist more steadily in its use. This will be found of vast importance, though seemingly trifling, as it will effectually prevent, in temperate people at least, the bad symptoms, and render the cure more speedy. If patients will observe the advice here given, and live low and regularly, the venereal disease will not be so formidable, nor yet so obstinate as the itch, and its dreadful ravages in a great measure, if not entirely prevented.

If the mercury has been continued as directed above, three or four months, and no change for the better in the swellings of the bones, or in the running ulcers in the groins, or elsewhere has taken place; and if the heat of urine and pain in passing it has gone off, there is reason to conclude that the venereal poison is killed, and that the disease still present is a disease of the constitution, resembling the scrophula or king's-evil. The mercury is then to be laid aside, and the disease treated like the scrophula; which see.

A young

A young gentleman some time ago laboured under a venereal disease of great obstinacy. He had been near two years under the care of the most celebrated practitioner in Dublin. Mercury had been pushed far, and long continued. Bark and opium had been given, with hemlock, and all other medicines recommended in such cases, but without success. At length his cure was despaired of, and he was advised to try the salt bath. He went into the bath once, but was so weak, he dared not go in again. When I was called to see him, he was in the most miserable situation. A large running ulcer in each groin, with two or three more at the bottom of his belly, so that it seemed to be rotten. Large ulcers were also formed at his elbows, the axillas, and three or four in his neck. The discharge was so great and so offensive it cannot be described. He was reduced to the last dregs of life. The Anti-arthritic Powder was immediately begun according to the printed directions. It had no sensible operation. In a short time he took six doses in the day. He took no mercury,

nor bark nor opium. In a few days there was a change for the better. He continued gradually to mend, and in five months he was perfectly recovered. He began the use of the powder about the middle of June, and as he is a gentleman of the law, he returned to town at the first of November to attend the courts. He was met in the street by his Æsculapius, who passed him without noticing him, but upon recollecting and addressing him by name, was greatly astonished at finding him in perfect health. He enquired where he had been, and what he had been about, and upon the patient telling him he had been using the powder, he asked him to dine, that he might be more particularly informed about the cure. The patient attended, and upon relating the circumstances of his cure, he only attempted to raise a horse-laugh against him for believing that he had been cured by the powder; and I have not heard that he ever recommended it since. Such is his concern for the prosperity of the powder!

A late

A late ingenious writer has pointed out some venereal symptoms, in which he thinks mercury not only useless but hurtful. These are the great inflammation of the penis, called phymosis, which frequently terminates in mortification; and the ill conditioned buboes which sometimes mortify, or become scirrhous. These ill conditioned symptoms, he thinks, proceed from scrophula or erysipelas in the habit, and that they are to be cured not by mercury, but blood-letting, purging, and also bark and opium. His remarks discover much attention, and accuracy, but his methods of curing those dangerous symptoms seem very defective. For admitting that those symptoms proceed from scrophula, or erysipelas in the habit, it must also be admitted that the venereal poison caused those symptoms to take place at that time, and that it still exists. He is embarrassed in his practice, because, though he has an effectual remedy for the venereal taint in mercury, he has no effectual remedy for the scrophula or erysipelas; for bark and opium will not cure them, and until they are cured the mercury does harm. The way effectually to relieve

lieve the patient, is to give the Antiarthritic Powder, five or six doses in the day. This will speedily, with bleeding, purging, and low diet, remove the inflammation, so that no mortification or scirrhus will take place. One night's omission of the mercury will be sufficient; it may be resumed, or even gone on with perfect safety, till the venereal poison is entirely destroyed. The mercury will then be no longer necessary, but the powder ought to be continued, as this will heal all the remaining ulcers, remove the gleet, and also all the rheumatic pains, the effect of the mercury, heal the gums aad mouth, and perfectly restore the constitution.

I have always seen the cure succeed best, when the powder was taken from the beginning of the disorder, along with the mercury. No bad symptom then ever takes place; the inflammation is never great, nor of long continuance. When this was given, I never saw even bleeding necessary; a little salts, with abstinence from animal food, wine, and spirits, was sufficient. The mouth was not injured,

jured, and the cure more speedy and perfect. If the powder be given from the beginning, it will make as great, or nearly as great a change in the venereal disease, as inoculation does in the small pox. The trouble and expence are nothing, and the advantage immense.

Mercury has one disagreeable effect. When taken for even a short time, it deprives the body of that sweetness it possessed before, and which is so very pleasing. An unsavoury smell proceeds from the bodies of all people who have used much mercury. No bathing, mineral waters, or change of climate can cure this. The powder alone possesses that admirable quality; and, by restoring that sweetness, which is allowed to be so great a charm, it shews its power over the human juices, and human constitution. Every one is a judge respecting this point. The appeal is made to the senses; and a short trial will convince every one, to their great comfort and pleasure, that they are not deceived.

Though

Though the treatment recommended above will generally prevent that very dangerous and troublesome complaint, the suppression of urine; yet, as we cannot always depend on the care and attention of patients, or on their temperance and regularity, this complaint will be apt to occur among venereal patients. It is also sometimes found without venereal taint. If warm stupes, and sitting over the steams of warm water, warm clysters, and baths fail, it will be necessary to apply the catheter; and, as a surgeon may not be at hand, every nurse-tender should learn to introduce it. It would, perhaps, be still better if every person provided a catheter, and learned how to introduce it. The patient himself would be the best operator in this case. He would feel himself hurt, and would not use too great violence, but, by taking time, and using a great deal of oil, introduce it with ease and safety. A very few trials on a dead subject would make it quite easy to any sensible and handy person. The elastic gum catheter ought also to be known generally, and the manner of introducing it. It is an invention of the greatest importance,

importance, and ought to be kept in the bladder, until the ulcers are perfectly healed, which occasion the suppression or stoppage of urine. The only injury I ever saw, from introducing the catheter, happened when a very old experienced surgeon was the operator. By introducing a very large catheter too hastily, the urethra was lacerated within the scrotum, and the poor man's life was miserable ever after. The elastic gum catheter gave him some relief; but a proper supply of them could not be got, and he died in great agonies. But the only conclusion to be drawn from this is, that surgeons are not infallible; that a small catheter should be used; that it should be frequently drawn back and oiled; that it should be pushed gently, and introduced slowly, and without violence.

There is one symptom more, which ought to be particularly mentioned. Chancre is sometimes the first appearance of the venereal disease. This is a sore upon the glans, near the frœnum, or the prepuce. It is always an intimation that the pox is at hand. For this

reason

reason no time is to be lost to rub it with strong mercurial ointment, as described above. From half a drachm to one drachm ought immediately to be rubbed in, and part of it upon the sore. The powder ought also to be taken according to the directions. If, along with this, the patient lives low, and abstains from wine and spirituous liquors, and from irregular gratifications, the chancre will be soon healed, and no disagreeable consequences ensue. But, if the mercury and powder be neglected, if the patient will not submit to rules, but must go on in his former ways, the chancre will encrease; the parts will be swelled and inflamed more or less, the ulcer will eat in and destroy them. When it comes to this, it is called a phagedenick chancre, and sometimes encreases and spreads, so as to destroy great part of the penis, and not seldom the whole of it, and even to occasion death. Some practitioners say this cannot be cured by mercury, but, on the other hand, is made worse by its application. This symptom, as I said before, as well as the other symptoms of pox, would not appear, but from neglecting the mercury

too

too long, or intemperate living. It is therefore in every person's power to prevent them, and the difficulty of curing them should be made known, to shew the danger and folly of inattention and obstinacy.

When, therefore, the chancre has been phagedenick or eating for some time, notwithstanding the use of mercury in sufficient quantity; when the mercury has no power over it, but it spreads more and more, and destroys the parts; the mercury should be laid aside, and the powder given, to the amount of a dose every two or three hours. The sores ought to be stuped with warm milk and water, morning and evening. A decoction of the bark should be applied after the warm stupes. If there be hollow or fistulous ulcers, the stupes, and, after them, the decoction of bark should be thrown in with a syringe, and the sweet oil the same way. Some fill such ulcers with dry lint; it will be sufficient to put a rag, moistened with oil or hog's lard, over the sore for a dressing; and, if it be painful, sweet oil ought to be applied pretty freely; and a dressing

sing of this, or hog's lard, should be applied for the night. The body ought to be kept open with salts, with the addition of senna or castor oil if necessary. The patient ought to live low, and eat nothing salt, nor drink any thing stronger than small beer. If the pain be very great, so as to prevent sleep, he may take, once or twice, from eight to ten drops of laudanum on a bit of sugar, or he may swallow from one half to one grain of opium. So soon as the pain abates, which will generally happen in five or six days, the laudanum and opium should be entirely laid aside. The chancre will cease to spread, it will produce good matter, and cease to be painful. If, however, there be reason to apprehend that the venereal poison is still alive, which will appear from heat of urine, pain in passing it, or in the urethra, or if there be pain beginning in the groin or testicle, it will be necessary to use the mercury, and to rub it in as before, taking the powder at the same time. Upon using it for some days, if the chancre grows worse, it must be laid aside again for a few days, and then, if necessary, resumed; and

so

so go on till the whole poison is subdued. If, after this, any ulcer should remain, the cure of it may be safely trusted to the powder.

Temperate people, who observe directions, and have sufficient patience to persevere, and firmness to despise impertinent advice, will not fail of being thus rescued from a situation the most dreadful in the catalogue of human miseries, and restored to health and comfort.

However frequently any one has received the venereal infection, he is just as liable to receive it again, as one that had never been infected. And every time the disease returns, it is with encreased severity, and generally with exasperated symptoms. In this respect it seems, of all infectious diseases, the most to be dreaded, as the greatest scourge. The disease is caught in a moment, but a long time, strict temperance, and punctual use of the means, are absolutely necessary to its cure. If the patient be inattentive or obstinate, and neglects the proper remedy at the beginning, volumes would not contain an accurate description

tion of the miseries to which he is subjected in after life. However men may admire that wisdom which has appointed it, as the punishment of intemperance, and as a check upon the abandoned profligacy of the dissolute, every humane character must wish to prevent it, or, if possible, extirpate it from among men. What has been hitherto done with this view is to establish lock hospitals, where the poor may be cured without expense to themselves. These hospitals are liable to the same objections which are made to hospitals in general. Some of these are mentioned in the remarks upon fever hospitals, which see. They are also liable to objections peculiar to themselves. In any I have seen, males and females are promiscuously admitted. Dividing them into distinct wards is not enough. The buildings for males and for females should not only be distinct, but separated at a considerable distance. But there is another abuse still greater, which is, putting young females for cure under the care of surgeons, and very frequently young surgeons. It might be deemed invidious to expatiate upon this, but its impropriety

propriety is obvious. Females labouring under the venereal disease should be cured by women. Intelligent women ought to be selected, and instructed in the best methods of curing their own sex; and it is a great mistake to suppose that women are incapable of such instruction. Unfortunate women would, upon the slightest illness, have recourse to their own sex, when they knew they were capable of curing them. Nothing but the greatest distress compels them to have recourse to men, when they are aware of the examination they must go through. No superior skill can compensate for the neglect of beginning the cure early. A very moderate skill will do, if the cure be begun soon, and the patient kept from spirituous liquors, and intercourse with the other sex. Those who are greatly interested in the gains of the sick trade should not be selected for the cure of young venereal females. It is shrewdly suspected that such females are never, in public hospitals at least, deprived of the power of communicating this disease, and the reason is so obvious it need not be dwelt upon. Much pains are taken,

and

and certainly with propriety, to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases; and yet certainly mankind suffer more from the venereal disease than all other diseases put together, and yet it is seldom or never made an object of public attention.

Perhaps little can be done to alleviate the miseries of this disease, or to prevent its great and destructive spread, so long as the cure of it is confined to the Faculty. The disease is disgraceful, and from this circumstance great part of its danger arises. The patient goes about his business, exposes himself to cold, eats and drinks as he used to do to avoid suspicion, by which means it has generally advanced to the dangerous stages before any thing effectual is done to stop its ravages. Time would almost fail, were we to describe the miseries arising from this plan. Sometimes money is wanting, as well as time to undertake a cure, and the unfortunate patient struggles on, till he comes into circumstances of wretchedness beyond description. He must yield at last; and often, before he does so, the

the disease has arrived at such an exasperated state, as to baffle the most experienced practitioner.

What is then the remedy for this evil? Why, that every man should inform himself of the nature of this disease, and the best method of curing it. Surely there is no more interesting subject for human investigation. It is as easily understood as any thing we are interested to know: neither genius, nor information are wanting, but attention. Much time is spent in amusement; much labour is submitted to in examining shells, butterflies, and insects; but time is wanting to investigate a matter which involves our own safety, and the safety of thousands of our fellow-creatures. Till men in general turn their attention to it, proper plans will never be adopted, either to prevent it, or perfectly cure it. And, until this attention is paid to it, it will continue not only to afflict, but to degrade the human species. Leaving it wholly to the faculty, is like leaving religion altogether to the clergy; or, rather, it is like a man's putting out his own eyes,

eyes, that he may be led about by one he supposes possessed of better eyes than his own.

Perhaps all means of preventing this disease will be ineffectual, until some good remedy be found out for prostitution. The venereal disease is so intimately connected with prostitution, that they must stand and fall together. The great Author of our being has appointed marriage for preventing uncleanness, and as a security against the miseries of promiscuous love. And that this union should be between one man and one woman, is demonstrated by the equality of numbers between males and females.

In the first ages of society, the difficulty of procuring food, and the bare necessaries of life, was such, that the constant and diligent labour of both husband and wife could not be dispensed with. Idleness is little known, and always punished in this stage. Few or none were permitted to walk about seeking amusement, or pleasure as it is called. In this state the violation of the marriage vow scarce ever occurred,

occurred; and, when it did happen, appeared so monstrous, that it was punished with death.

In cultivated society, when agriculture and the arts are improved, the labour of a few can procure not only necessary food, but luxuries, and even ornaments for a great number. A large part of society, being enabled to live without labour, are at leisure to cultivate the sciences, and all those things which are productive of happiness and prosperity to mankind. But the use too frequently made of this great privilege, is to adorn the body, seek after frivolous amusements, and pursue gratifications, falsely called pleasures. In this state seduction becomes common, and leads directly to prostitution.

In most countries, the laws for regulating marriage were formed in the early stages of society, when labour, and simplicity of manners were in fashion. The superstition of the times had attached I know not what mystery to the marriage contract. Not like other covenants, confirmed by the sanction of an oath:

it was considered so divine and spiritual, as to be unfit even to be enquired into by profane laymen. It was to be solemnized, and also dissolved, by the clergy alone. It is true the clergy were not allowed to marry, and could not regard marriage in the same light, or with the same interests with married men. But it was not only supposed but believed that the holiness of their profession, and of their orders, had extinguished in them all gross and sensual desires, common to other men, and made them like unto the angels, who neither marry nor are given in marriage. Those good fathers stood in awe of so solemn an institution as that of marriage, but of which they never tasted, and rendered the dissolution of it difficult, tedious and expensive. And when they became able to hold out to complaining or uneasy husbands, the horrors of a dungeon, or the still more consolatory effects of the *wheel*, matters were as favourable for this unmarried clergy as they could be, or in other words, they were on the safe side.

But

But when the clergy became married, marriage began to be considered as a civil as well as a religious rite, and that it was no great profanation to allow the laity to look a little into it. A husband was suffered to bring an action against the seducer of his wife in a lay court, and recover such damages as were awarded by a jury of married men. This is considered by all men as a great improvement, and yet some suppose that consequences result from the decision of the court and jury, which are not declared. A woman and man are convicted of the crime of adultery by a jury of the vicinage, assisted by a learned and upright judge, or bench of judges. It is said that two, perhaps three consequences follow, which are not mentioned.—The crime of adultery dissolves the marriage of the adulteress with her first husband, and it establishes her marriage with the adulterer. And if the adulterer be a married man, it dissolves his marriage with his former wife. Thus, it is said, that the finding of the crime dissolves one marriage, sometimes two, and establishes one. Every one knows that it is the adultery

dissolves the marriage, and if the court and jury are competent to find the crime of adultery, will it be doubted that they are competent to say that the marriage is dissolved? When a jury finds that the sun is up, surely it can say it is day-light.

But what unpleasant effects proceed from neglecting to declare those consequences? The injured man is deprived of his wife, he cannot marry another, and if he has not the gift of continency, he is almost necessitated to have recourse to seduction himself. His children are commonly neglected, and the misconduct of the mother marks them out for a prey, so that the female part too often go to encrease the number of prostitutes. No other fate awaits the unhappy mother: discarded by her husband, thrust out by her own friends, and shunned by all the virtuous part of her own sex. Her seducer, from his love of variety, and smarting by the payment of damages, abandons her also: she has no refuge but prostitution! The wife of the seducer, if he has one, neglected by her husband, and provoked by

by his infidelity, thinks herself obliged to repay him in kind, and being cut off from the hope of another marriage, abandons herself to prostitution. While the same fate generally awaits the female part of her offspring. Thus one act of seduction and infidelity, like the opening of the box of Pandora, sends forth innumerable crimes and misfortunes, ripening by a quick process into misery.

The first step to a cure is to know the disease, and it is happy that the cure of these great evils is so very simple, that it seems to offer itself spontaneously. If the injured husband, instead of wasting his time, and the property of his children, in forms, and endless and unintelligible casuistry, was allowed immediately to marry; a cheerful and happy fire-side would be the consequence. Friendship and peace might once more visit his distracted family. His children would be comforted and protected, and tasting the advantages of a virtuous, and industrious education, would be preserved from all the miseries that threatened them.

As

As to the seducer and his well beloved, the words of Juno might apply to them,

Connubio judgam stabili, propriamque dicabo.

To declare them married would preserve the woman from prostitution, and giving all the claims of a wife, against her seducer is the most equitable provision can be made for her. Since the law does not put her to death, it is but reasonable, it should allow her some support, and who so proper to support her, as the man who brought her away from her family, and all her former connections. As o the seducer himself, he can have no objection to be joined in firm marriage with the woman he likes, and being matched to his mind, he will be checked in his gallantries, and stopped short in his career of seduction. It is said that the largest damages are an inadequate punishment for the greatness of his crime, let him find himself married to the adulteress, and his punishment will be compleat.

As

* I will join them in stable marriage, and will call her his own.

As to the former wife of the adulterer, if he had one, she ought to be declared divorced, and separated from her former husband, and at liberty to marry again. Her fortune ought to be returned to her, and a provision made for the support and education of her children by him. If he should be destitute of assets or means, the estate or separate property of the adulteress, if possessed of any, should be made liable to such claims, as also to the damages decreed the injured husband in like circumstances.

Thus a number of innocent people would be preserved from infamy and misery. And surely the gross act does not make the whole of the crime of adultery. If a lady falls into the hands of ruffians, who treat her rudely and ravish her: will any man say she is guilty of adultery, though she be a married lady? Surely no man in his senses will either say, or think she is. And yet the gross act is the same as in adultery. But the crime of adultery implies also the treasonable and disloyal

disloyal habits of the mind, and the alienation of the affections.*

If the proper remedies for unfortunate marriages were applied, or were attainable, early marriages would be frequent; and as few men would be distressed with disagreeable wives, seductions of innocent females would be rare. The great corrupters of female innocence are either old batchelors or married men on bad terms with their wives, and who possess property. Young men are seldom so much at leisure as to go through a tedious courtship, and they seldom possess money sufficient to make courtship unnecessary. It is the discarded mistresses of the rich, which generally corrupt young men, and this corruption makes them averse to marriage. If, then,

* In most countries impotency on the side of the man is considered a sufficient cause of divorce. In some countries, concealed and incurable diseases have the same effect on the side of the woman. But moral turpitude, mental depravity, falsehood, drunkenness and dissipation are no where made foundation of divorce, a sure proof of the excellence and virtue of the sex.

then, few females were seduced, early marriages would be frequent, especially when the contract is clearly understood. The females that are now seduced would be married; and plodding men, who marry mental and bodily deformity, for the sake of fortune or connections, and in hope of making amends by an amiable kept mistress, would be obliged to feed upon the husks of the human species.

Perhaps it will be objected, that, if this plan was acted upon, the fickleness of men is such, that divorces would become too frequent. But what evil can be greater than that arising from female seduction, matrimonial infidelity, and prostitution? When a man finds that, to entitle him to a divorce, he must prove the violation of the marriage contract against his wife; and that, should he succeed in this, he must after all make a settlement of his affairs as if he was dead, and provide for his wife and children, according to his fortune; his fickleness would abate, his temper cool, and he would see it best to cultivate

domestic virtues, and render his fire-side happy.

The fact is, a desire of separation is by no means common among married people. At the formation of the contract there is almost always some attachment. This is strengthened by custom, and mutual good offices; and, if there be children, they form a strong cement. Many instances happen of great misconduct, and even brutal misbehaviour, without one thought of a separation. It is only great, repeated, and scandalous abuses, which spur on any one to prosecute a divorce. When the marriage can be dissolved upon either side, upon just and rational grounds, the civilities of courtship would not so soon cease. Both parties would see it their interest to please, and promote each other's happiness. Ceasing to presume upon a mysterious and indissoluble union, they would no longer be mutual plagues to each other. There would be less tyranny on the one side, and meanness on the other; but a union, bound together by the strongest interests,

terests, elevated by friendship, and sweetened by esteem and mutual love.

From the testimony of history it appears, that mankind were not prone to make an improper use of divorce. In the first ages of the Roman State, the husband had not only a discretionary power of divorcing his wife, but even of putting her to death, without being called to any account. This, no doubt, was an excessive, and even unreasonable power; yet so far was it from being abused, that, in a period of three hundred years, not one divorce took place.—During the continuance of the popery laws in Ireland, marriages celebrated between protestants by popish clergymen were void. In an extensive tract of very populous country, it was customary for young protestants, when marrying without consent, to have recourse to such clergymen, and some of them degraded. The people, almost to a man, knew that such marriages were void in law; and yet, for a series of years, not one instance occured of any man taking advantage of that circumstance. Many, when they thought the

issue

issue of such marriages in danger of suffering in their rights of inheritance, were legally married; but none put away their wives, or denied the obligation of their vows.

But the venereal disease is not only hurtful to the health, but also to the beauty. Blotches and tetters, or pimples on the face, redness of the nose, sore and red eyes, with deafness, and even ulcers in the ears, are the consequences of it. Mercury, instead of curing those complaints, makes them worse, and some ascribe them to the mercury itself. These complaints never fail to yield to the powder, when properly continued. Patients labouring under those diseases are commonly ordered to sea bathing, or sea water, sometimes mineral waters, or goat's whey. But the powder is the cure; nothing else is necessary, except the body be costive, and then some opening physic must be used along with the powder. Sea water, or salts, or castor oil, will answer. So soon as moisture appears in the pimples or tetters, the powder ought to be rubbed on dry at going to bed, so as to come in contact with the

the juices. It answers well made up in an ointment with hog's lard or butter, and rubbed upon the sores. Applied in either way it will answer, if the patient be temperate, and avoids drams and high seasoned food.*

Surgery.

This is a branch of the art of healing, which employs manual operation, and from this has its name. It is considered as distinct from the business of a physician, though the surgeon, and sometimes the apothecary, take upon them to act as physicians. In ancient times, physicians attended to every thing connected with the recovery and health of their patients. Homer's physicians were remarkable for success in curing the wounds of his heroes, though this particularly falls within the department of the surgeon. The fact is, Nature cures the disease, and all that art can pretend to is to assist her in her efforts, and to remove those things which, in the internal or external parts of

* During the rubbing, the powder should be taken four or five times a day internally.

of the body, hinder her, or stand in the way of effecting her designs. Those diseases which have their seat in the internal parts of the body are supposed to belong to the department of the physician; while those that are external, and within the reach of an hand or instrument, are allotted to the surgeon.

Whether the disease be kept up by an external or internal sore, it must be of the first importance that the blood and juices should be sweetened and purified, or, in other words, disarmed of their power to produce or keep up an ulcer, and brought to that state which is necessary to heal it. Till this takes place, every effort to heal it must be nugatory; and as sores occasioned by external injuries generally take place while the constitution is in considerable vigour, and the juices undepraved, they must be much more easily healed, than when brought on from internal causes, where the blood and juices, instead of healing, wound and destroy the parts. The probabilities of success are therefore much in favour of the surgeon.

Cancerous

Cancerous and scrophulous cases are, no doubt, sometimes put under the care of surgeons. This happens merely because they are sores, and from a mistaken opinion that they may be healed by the same means which succeed in sores taking place from external injuries. These sores arising chiefly, if not solely, from internal causes, and the most dangerous part of the disease entirely within the body, outward applications or dressings can do little in their cure. Suppose the cancerous lumps or sore cut out; if the disease be not removed from the habit, it will return again, and generally prove fatal. Cutting off scrophulous limbs is liable to the same objection. Poultices and plaisters may give some ease, and be of a little use, by keeping out the air and cold, but cannot heal the disease. Surgeons ought not to hurt such patients by introducing probes, which can be of no manner of use; nor ought they to be so unwilling to open tumours in this disease, when there is evidently felt in them a fluctuation of matter. It is strange that so great fear should be entertained of ulcers becoming worse conditioned by

by being opened, when they become worse and worse, and generally fatal, whether they be opened or not. Ulcers, particularly when upon the cavity of the body, or near the back-bone, should be opened so soon as matter is formed in them. Any person may open them, as there never is the least danger in the operation. I have seen scrophulous lumps upon the back-bone, very large, opened, and completely healed afterwards by the internal use of the powder in two or three months; and I once saw the very worst consequences from neglecting to open a tumor near the back-bone, in a case of incurvature of the spine. But the disease called scrophula has been treated of before.

Tumors threatening cancer, if seated in the breasts of women, had best be cut out, if near the surface, early in the disease. The internal use of the powder will very speedily heal up the sore, and completely eradicate the disease.* See what is said before on this disease.

As

* Cutting out the tumor is not, however, absolutely necessary, as I have seen the tumor removed always, if the powder be

As to wounds from external violence; the first object is to pick out any bits of cloth, balls, dirt, points or bits of sharp instruments. When these are extracted, or got out, the lips of the sore are to be brought as close together as possible, and a poultice applied, where any balls or dirt were taken out. But clean open wounds, upon their lips being brought close, should be bandaged, and a poultice of bread and milk applied over the bandage. If the powder be properly taken, a kindly suppuration will immediately begin, and the sores heal with little or no trouble. If the balls, &c. be so situated that an opening cannot be safely made for extracting them, a poultice should be applied over the sore, the powder should be immediately given, and repeated every two, or at most, three hours, and the belly opened by clysters or pills: a suppuration will immediately take place, and the offending substances will generally come out of themselves; or, if it be still necessary to extract them, the parts may

be properly taken, without it, though perhaps not quite so soon, and in other parts of the body there is no occasion for any cutting.

may be touched with less pain, and more success.

The danger of spasm, and locking of the jaws, will be much diminished, when the periostium, or any nervous membranes or parts are wounded, if the powder be properly taken. Amputation of the limbs will be much less frequent; or, if the limbs be amputated, which will be less practised every day, fever and spasm will seldom succeed. The same observation will hold with respect to fractures of the skull, and openings with the trepan, or circular saw, which will be much more safe, and easily healed.

I have had occasion to observe, that, of all the great numbers who have used this powder, I have not known one that contracted the gravel or stone, and I have known some that have been cured of both by it. I do not think it unfair to assert, that the general use of it will banish the operation for the stone from the catalogue of surgical operations. However, as the powder may not be generally used for some time,

time, this operation will still go on. It is proper, therefore, to say, that the powder will be eminently useful in preventing fever and spasm in such patients as may unfortunately be obliged to submit to this dangerous operation. Is it not matter of joy that surgical operations will be less frequent, and more safe? I know how difficult it is to overcome prejudice; but such as may have courage to try the plan here recommended, will soon perceive, to their own inexpressible satisfaction, and great comfort of the afflicted, that the statement here made is by no means exaggerated.

Men exposed to wounds in battle should be made acquainted with the turnequet, or machine for stopping blood, and the manner of applying it. Every man should be furnished with one of these, and be able to apply it to himself, or his neighbour, if wounded. On those dreadful occasions it is sometimes difficult to find a surgeon, so that many valuable lives are lost for want of this very useful instrument, the application of which is by no means difficult to be understood.

Bite

Bite of a Mad Dog.

I have arranged this disease among surgical cases, contrary to the usual plan of medical writers, who have considered it as within the department of the physician. If, however, physicians would renounce it entirely, and tell the world that it can neither be prevented nor cured by medicine, they would do the world in this case, as well as in some others, a most essential service. All medicines pretending to cure the Hydrophobia, the mortal disease arising from the bite of a mad dog, should be thrown to the dunghill, because they have all failed in every case. Salt bathing and charms have not been more lucky. As there is a certain specific for preventing this disease, which has never been known to fail, the attention of mankind should be directed solely to it. This is the more necessary, because the true cure is rather disagreeable, and the bulk of people very irresolute, and inclined to put the evil day as far off as possible.

The

The real cure is a red-hot iron applied to the wound, or wounds made by the dog. The burning should go somewhat farther, both in bottom and sides, than the dog's tooth, or teeth. Tenderness here is the greatest cruelty; the remedy ought to be effectually and sufficiently applied: under these circumstances it has never failed. The iron should be applied as soon as possible after the bite is received; and though a surgeon ought to be preferred, yet, if there be none at hand, the patient himself, or any other person, may apply the hot iron. There is no danger, except in want of courage to burn deep enough. If there be no failure here, all the dreadful consequences will be prevented.

Though it is certainly best to burn the wound immediately, or very soon, there is reason to believe it will answer, though delayed for some considerable time. The delay is dangerous, no doubt, but if unhappily it has been delayed, it is better late than never. The wound from the bite generally heals up in a short time, but when the hydrophobia

is

is coming on it grows sore, and breaks out afresh. There is reason to believe that if the burning takes place before the symptoms of hydrophobia take place, the danger will be prevented. Every person should be urged to use the hot iron as soon as possible, and even though it should have been delayed, still to use it. A gentleman of great information told me he had never seen the hot iron fail of preventing the hydrophobia, though in some cases it had been delayed for some time. I have seen it tried in some cases, and never knew it to fail. A lady had got a bite of a mad dog in one of her fingers. When I first saw it, it had healed up, but as some creatures that were bitten by the same dog had died of hydrophobia, she was greatly alarmed, and had determined to be dipped in the sea. I advised her to burn the wound, though it could scarcely be distinguished from the rest of the skin, it was so far healed. She consented, and it was burned down very deep. It was treated like a common burn, kept in cold water till the pain subsided, and then rolled in an oiled cloth, and in a few days

it

it was healed. She used no other remedy, and has continued quite well ever since, though six or seven years ago.

Dislocations or luxations of the joints frequently happen in situations so unfortunate, that no surgeon can be had soon enough. The heads of the bones may be easily replaced in their sockets in general, if proper means be applied at first. But if they be not reduced very soon after being forced out; great inflammation or swelling come on, and when these go off the sockets are so filled up, or the muscles so extended, that the head of the bone cannot be kept in its place. An able surgeon should be got immediately, but if he cannot be had, any person of good common sense might prove a successful help. Such a person will easily perceive if any of the joints are dislocated by observing the difference between the joint injured, and the sound one on the opposite side. He will easily perceive the head of the bone, before the swelling takes place, and the situation of the socket from which it has been driven or forced. The reduction

duction is made by causing the body of the patient to be firmly held, and the dislocated bone to be strongly pulled, while the operators fingers guide the head of the bone into its socket. When the reduction takes place it is easily known, by the noise or crack it makes upon going into its usual place. The particular dislocations which most commonly happen, and the manner of reducing them, are very ably described in Buchan's Domestic Medicine.*

Fractures.

The bones are frequently fractured or broken, where the aid of a skilful surgeon cannot be obtained. Every effort should be used to obtain one as soon as possible. If such can not be had, then a person of good sense should do his best. It will be of great consequence here also to get the pieces of the broken bone put in their proper places, before inflammation or swelling come on. The muscles must be

* Page 468, 89, 70, 71, 72, 73, Dublin Edition.

be extended as in dislocation, and the operator's fingers bring the broken ends of the bones as close as possible. When brought to their proper place, the great object is to keep them from slipping. Tight bandages and rollers have been recommended for this purpose; these, however, encrease the inflammation and fever. It is best to have the joints bent a little, that the muscles may be as little on the stretch as possible. Two pieces of leather, or pasteboard, the length of the broken bone, should be fastened by a bandage not too tight drawn, and the limb and whole body kept as easy as possible. There is great danger of fever and spasm, and locking of the jaws from dislocation, and still more from fracture. Fractured limbs, when the bone is broken into a great many pieces, are very liable to mortify. In both cases some blood should be taken, and the body opened by the opening pill; wine and spirits must be avoided. Animal food will also be improper for some time, while the fever and inflammation continue. Small beer, or toast and water, will be the most proper drink. I have never had an opportunity of

trying the powder in the inflamed stage, either of dislocation or fracture; but, from its effects in sprains and hurts, and contusions in general, there is reason to believe it would be of the greatest use. That in this, as in all other cases, it would prevent fever, spasm, locking of the jaws, and even mortification, so that many limbs and lives also would be preserved, which now are lost. There is no medicine known so effectual to remove pain, keep down or remove inflammation, and for preventing all the melancholy effects of the irritation of the nervous system. The trial is easy and safe, and it cannot do hurt in any case, nor will it interfere with the operation of any other medicine.

But, though it has not been tried at the beginning or inflamed state of dislocation or fracture, it has been often tried in those weaknesses of the joints and bones, which are apt to continue long after the patient is said to be better. These trials have been attended with the happiest success. The powder has soon dismissed the crutches and mufflings, and restored ease and health.

In great bleedings at the nose, or spittings of blood, the powder always produces the happiest effects. In violent bleedings it ought to be given every second or third hour, the bowels should be opened with Glauber's salts and clysters. Animal food should be abstained from, and wine, and all strong drinks. Water, with a little vinegar or lemon-juice, should be the only drink while the danger continues. All persons liable to bleed at the nose, or to spit blood, should immediately begin a course of the powder. There is great danger of mortal bleedings or consumptions, if this be neglected. In all cases of this kind I have seen the happiest effects from administering the powder. When the blood is sweetened, and the constitution restored, the universal effects of the powder, these bleedings are prevented or removed, with all their dangerous and too often fatal consequences.

THE END.

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